



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



LONDON:
GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.



THE HISTORY OF PRUSSIA,

FROM THE TIMES OF

The Knights of the Cross and Sword

TO

THE OCCUPATION OF HANOVER, 1867.

COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORITIES,

By M. A. D.



London :

WHITTAKER & CO., AVE MARIA LANE.

1869.

240. g. 11.

LONDON:
GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.

1203—1701.

PAGE

Knights of the Cross and Sword—Hospitaliers—Prussia created a Dukedom—Albert of Brandenburg—Albert Frederick—Prussia merged in the Electorate of Brandenburg—John Sigismund—George William—The Great Elector—Prussia transformed into a Kingdom . 1

CHAPTER II.

Frederick I.

1701—1713.

Coronation of Frederick—Extravagance of the King—Curious Financial Expedients—Disgrace of the Count and Countess von Wartenburg—Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau—Victory of Malplaquet—Military Improvements—Death of Frederick 10

CHAPTER III.

Frederick William I.

1713—1740.

Frederick William's Childhood and Education—His Economy—Hatred of the French—Conclusion of Peace—Treaty of Baden—Neufchâtel—War with Sweden—Treaty of Stockholm—The Giant Regiment—Frederick William's Civil Policy—Flight and Imprisonment of the Crown Prince—The King's Character and Habits—His Death	PAGE 14
---	------------

CHAPTER IV.

Frederick II., called Sanspareil, and the Great.

1740—1745.

Frederick's early History—Education—Tastes—Disagreements with his Father—Reconciliation and Marriage—War with Austria—Silesia overrun—Schwerin—Battle of Molwitz—Battle of Cholusitz—Peace—Embassy of Voltaire—War recommenced—Frederick's Victories—Peace with England—Treaty of Dresden	27
---	----

CHAPTER V.

Frederick II. (continued).

1745—1756.

The King's Industry—Specimen of his Notes—His Respect for the Laws—Sans Souci—Frederick's Pursuits—Visit from Voltaire—Quarrel between Voltaire and the King—Departure of Voltaire—Correspondence with Voltaire	44
---	----

Contents.

v

CHAPTER VI.

Frederick II. (continued).

1756—1763.

	PAGE
Commencement of the Seven Years' War—Conquest of Saxony—Victory of Zorndorf—Disastrous surprise of the Prussian Camp at Hochkirchen—Victory of Minden—Defeat at Kunnersdorf—Berlin captured—Victory of Torgau—Death of George II. of England and Elizabeth of Russia—Peace with Russia—Treaty of Hubertsburg	54

CHAPTER VII.

Frederick II. (continued).

1763—1786.

Frederick's Mode of Life—His Financial Policy—His Justice—Conferences with the Emperor of Germany—Laudohn—First Partition of Poland—War with Austria—Peace restored—Frederick's failing Health—His Death	71
--	----

CHAPTER VIII.

Frederick William II.

1786—1797.

Frederick William's Extravagance—Campaign in Holland—French Revolution—War with France—Invasion of France—Valmy—Evacuation of France—War carried on in Germany—Retirement of the Duke of Brunswick—Treaty of Bâle—Death of Frederick William . . .	91
--	----

CHAPTER IX.

Frederick William III.

1797—1807.

Frederick William's Disposition—Queen Louisa—Hostile Feeling to France—Visit of the Czar—Secret Treaty with Russia—Change of Policy—Frederick William receives Hanover from Napoleon—War with Napoleon—Double Defeat at Auerstadt and Jena—Entire Conquest of Prussia by the French—Death of the Duke of Brunswick—Battles of Eylau and Friedland—Peace of Tilsit	PAGE 101
--	--------------------

CHAPTER X.

Frederick William III. (continued).

1807—1815.

Von Stein—The Tugendbund—Death of the Queen—Napoleon's Russian Expedition—War with France—Coalition against Napoleon—Battle of Lutzen—Battle of Bautzen—Defeat of Macdonald—Battle of Dresden—Retreat of the Allies—Battle of Leipsic—Invasion of the French—Triumphal Entry of the Allies into Paris—Napoleon's Abdication—Congress of Vienna—Napoleon's Return from Elba—Waterloo—Second Entry of the Allies into Paris—European Peace . .	118
---	------------

CHAPTER XI.

Frederick William III. (continued).

1815—1840.

Discontent in the Rhenish Provinces—Petitions for a Constitution—Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle—Death of
--

Contents.

vii

	PAGE
Blucher—Treaty with the Pope—Provincial Diets instituted—Second Marriage of the King—Ecclesiastical Changes—The Zollverein established—Disagreements with the Popish Archbishops—Illness of the King—Visit from the Czar—Frederick William's death	141

CHAPTER XII.

Frederick William IV.

1840—1861.

A Constitution granted—Riots in Berlin—Universal Suffrage introduced—War with Denmark—National Assembly dissolved—A new and liberal Constitution proclaimed—Frederick William offered the Title of Emperor of Germany—Dispute with Austria—Conservative Reaction—Neuchâtel declared independent—Malady of the King—Regency of the Crown Prince—Death of the King	153
--	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

William I.

1861—1867.

Coronation at Königsberg—Count Bismark—Government Disputes with the Lower House—War with Denmark—Peace with Denmark—Treaty of Gastein—War with Austria—Occupation of Hanover—Invasion of Austria—Battle of Königgratz—Treaty of Prague	161
--	-----



HISTORY OF PRUSSIA.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.

1203—1701

Knights of the Cross and Sword—Hospitaliers—Prussia created a Dukedom—Albert of Brandenburg—Albert Frederick—Prussia merged in the Electorate of Brandenburg—John Sigismund—George William—The Great Elector—Prussia transformed into a Kingdom.

THE origin of the word *Prussia* is very obscure ; some authorities consider that it is derived from Po-Russia, a Slavonian term, meaning near Russia, applied by the Poles to the country on the right bank of the Vistula from Dantsic to Memel. Others are of opinion that the tribe which inhabited the region were called Prusczi,

and that the country derived its name from them. About 1203 an Order, called the Knights of the Cross and Sword, was instituted by Albert, Bishop of Riga, for the express purpose of converting and conquering Livonia and Prussia. The Knights of the Cross and Sword proving too weak to accomplish their object, Conrad of Massovia (Warsaw), in 1230, called in the Teutonic Knights, or German Hospitallers, to his aid. In 1237 the Order of the Cross and Sword was incorporated with that of the Hospitallers. Thorn and Culm were founded in 1232 and 1233; Elbing in 1239, and Königsberg in 1255. By 1283 the Hospitallers had completely subdued the country; the native inhabitants were almost exterminated, and Prussia was re-peopled by Poles and Germans, Christianity being universally professed. The Knights Hospitallers ruled tranquilly till about 1412; about that time a rebellion broke out, in which the nobility and the cities were both concerned. The Knights had become tyrants, and the Prussians were determined to submit no longer to them. The Pope sided with the Knights, and, as the Emperor also declared for them, the


Prussians placed themselves under the protection of Poland. Casimir, the Polish king, marched into Prussia; the Knights obtained aid from Germany, and a long and disastrous struggle commenced, during which many of the towns were burnt, upwards of a thousand churches destroyed, and the country reduced to a desert. At length, in 1466, the peace of Thorn was concluded, by which the Grand Master of the Hospitallers ceded Western Prussia entirely to Poland, and consented to hold Eastern Prussia as a vassal of the Polish sovereign. In 1511, Albert, Duke of Brandenburg was elected Grand Master by the Knights of the Order. In 1525, he embraced the Lutheran faith, dissolved the Order of the Hospitallers, and was created by the Treaty of Cracow hereditary Duke of Prussia, which he was still to hold as a fief of the Polish crown. To strengthen himself additionally, he espoused Dorathea, daughter of Frederick II. of Denmark. He died in 1568, and was succeeded by his son, Albert Frederick, who was imbecile. The dukedom was governed successively by George Frederick of Anspach, Joachim Frederick of Brandenburg, and John Sigismund,

1518
147
Elector of Brandenburg. On the death of the Duke Albert Frederick, in 1518, John Sigismund succeeded him, having obtained the grant of the dukedom from Poland for himself and his heirs. Prussia and Brandenburg thus became united under a single sovereign. The Electoral House of Brandenburg was descended from Frederick, Count of Hohenzollern, and Burgrave of Nuremberg, who purchased the Electorate of Brandenburg from the Emperor Sigismund in 1411 for 100,000 ducats; and then conquered the nobility of the province, who refused to receive him as their sovereign, principally by means of a large cannon; an instrument of warfare almost unknown in those times.

George William succeeded John Sigismund in 1620. He sided with the Emperor Ferdinand II. against Bohemia, Silesia, and several other Protestant States, in the war which took place soon after his accession. When Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, who had married his sister Eleanore, landed in his dominions, in 1630, fear of Poland, which was hostile to Sweden, made him hesitate how to receive him, till Gustavus advanced to Berlin, and offered him the alternative of alliance or the destruction of his

capital. He chose the former. In 1637, the Duke of Pomerania died, and George William laid claim to the province; but his demands being disregarded by the Swedes, who took possession of it, he returned to his allegiance to the Emperor.

In 1640, *Frederick William*, known as the *Great Elector*, succeeded his father, George William. In 1656, Charles Gustavus of Sweden declared war against Poland. Frederick William at first supported Casimir of Poland, hoping to add Swedish Pomerania to his dominions; but, finding that success seemed likely to crown the arms of the Swedish king, he transferred his assistance to him. The Poles were defeated near Warsaw, and immediately afterwards the Elector offered his alliance to Casimir on condition of Prussia being declared independent. Casimir was obliged to accept the proposal, and concluded a treaty at *Wehlau*, 1657, by which he relinquished his feudal rights over Prussia. The Elector then entered into alliance with the Emperor, and induced Denmark and Holland to attack Sweden. In the course of the war which followed he gained possession of Pomerania, but lost it again by the



Treaty of Oliva, 1660. About fourteen years later, the Swedes, instigated by the French, who were at that time at war with the Emperor, invaded Prussia twice; but were on each occasion defeated and driven back by the gallant Elector, who took the opportunity of reconquering Pomerania. The glory he gained in these campaigns having rendered the Emperor jealous, that weak-minded potentate concluded the peace of Nimeguen with France, which condemned Frederick William to relinquish his Swedish conquests. The advance of a powerful French army compelled him to submit to this hard treatment, and Pomerania was restored to Sweden. The Elector now turned his attention to the internal condition of his dominions. He erected the fortress of Fredericksburg; put down with a strong hand some attempts to resist his measures; and compelled the Lutheran clergy, who had treated the Calvinists with extreme intolerance, to take an oath binding them to obey henceforth all electoral edicts without exception. Only one Lutheran pastor, Paul Gerhardt the poet, refused to take the oath, and was banished. The Elector also fitted out a fleet, and founded a colony in Guinea,

called Gross Friederichsburg, which was, however, sold to the Dutch in 1780. Frederick William died in 1788.

Frederick, his eldest son, succeeded him. This prince was deformed, in consequence of an accident which had occurred to him in infancy, and therefore was sometimes called "The Royal *Æsop*." In spite of his personal defects, he was fond of show and pomp, vain and dissipated. Unworthy successor as he was to his illustrious father, to whom he was immeasurably inferior in ability, his government was at first popular, for he was guided in state affairs by Dankelmann, who, though somewhat severe, was thoroughly just. But unhappily for his subjects, Frederick soon got tired of this monitor, and transferred his favour to a worthless, cunning adventurer of the name of Kolbe, whose wife, a coarse, low-born woman of great beauty, was his favourite. He bestowed on the unworthy pair the titles of Count and Countess von Wartenburg, and succumbed in every thing to their influence. Dankelmann, who ventured to contradict his master and oppose his favourite schemes when he thought them dangerous, was arrested and thrown into

prison at Spandau, and Kolbe succeeded him as Prime Minister, though utterly ignorant of the duties he had to perform. His desire to keep himself in the Elector's good graces led him to flatter his vanity and ambition in every possible way; and when Augustus of Saxony became King of Poland, and William of Orange King of England, he contrived to inspire Frederick, who was jealous of them, with the notion of becoming a king too. It was Dankelmann's opposition to this project which caused his disgrace. As Elector of Brandenburg and one of the Princes of the Empire, it was impossible, according to the ideas which then prevailed in Europe, for him to assume the regal title; but he held Prussia independently, and there was nothing to hinder his becoming King of Prussia, if he could only induce the other States of Europe to acknowledge him as such. Circumstances favoured his design. In the year 1700, Charles II. of Spain died, and left his throne by will to the grandson of Louis XIV. of France. The Emperor claimed it for his son, and the *War of the Succession* commenced. England and Holland sided with the Emperor; the Electors of Cologne and Bavaria joined

Louis, and the Emperor was glad to secure the alliance of Frederick, even at the cost of permitting him to assume the title of king. Kolbe facilitated the recognition of his master's new dignity by distributing six millions of dollars (worth about one million sterling) in bribes, of which the Jesuits in Vienna are said to have received 200,000 dollars.

The establishment of this petty kingdom was generally ridiculed as a piece of childish vanity on the part of Frederick, unlikely to lead to any important consequences; but the Pope objected to it, and the celebrated Prince Eugene exclaimed that the councillors who recommended the Emperor to recognize the King of Prussia, deserved to be hanged. Could Prince Eugene have foreseen the state of Europe in 1868, it would have strongly confirmed him in this opinion.

CHAPTER II.

. Frederick I.

1701—1713.

Coronation of Frederick—Extravagance of the King—Curious Financial Expedients—Disgrace of the Count and Countess von Wartenburg—Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau—Victory of Malplaquet—Military Improvements—Death of Frederick.

ON the 18th January, 1701, the kingdom of Prussia was founded, and Frederick and his consort, Charlotte Sophia of Hanover, were solemnly crowned at Königsberg, Frederick himself placing the crown first on his own and then on the Queen's head. The Order of the Black Eagle was instituted at the same time. Frederick imitated the rigid etiquette of the Spanish court in his little kingdom,

surrounded his palace with Swiss guards, and indulged his taste for pomp and magnificence at a very extravagant cost. Kolbe drew funds from the unfortunate people in various and novel ways. Taxes on wigs, dresses, and hogs' bristles were imposed; and it is scarcely necessary to say that the extortionate minister took good care to fill his own pockets, as well as provide means for his master's luxurious pleasures. He even had recourse to alchemy to procure gold; and one alchemist bearing the high-sounding titles of Don Dominico Caetano, Conte de Ruggiero, was put to death (as a punishment for deceiving the King) in a rather singular manner, being hanged on a gilded gallows, in a toga made of gilt paper.

At length, however, the beauty of the Countess von Wartenburg began to fade while her arrogance increased, and she lost her influence over the King. The malpractices of her husband were discovered in consequence of a quarrel between him and one of his accomplices, a Count Wittgenstein; but he was punished only by banishment with his wife, and the indulgent king even settled a pension of 24,000 dollars on them.

The Prussians took part in the War of the Succession. In 1706 the Prussian regiments, under Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, contributed greatly to a brilliant victory gained near Turin over the French by Prince Eugene. In 1707, Frederick's warm adherence to the German and English league was secured by a piece of adroit flattery from the Duke of Marlborough, who, thoroughly understanding his character, paid him a visit, and won his heart by mingling with the attendants, and handing him the napkin as he sat at table. The Prussians, again commanded by the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, fought nobly at Malplaquet in September, 1708, under Prince Eugene and Marlborough. It must be confessed that, great as were Frederick's faults, he was not altogether regardless of the glory of his kingdom, for he caused the army to be greatly improved by Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, who had learnt the art of war by personal experience under Prince Eugene. He encouraged learning, founded the University of Halle, 1694, and favoured the learned Thomasius and the pious Francke in their efforts to raise the tone and widen the scope of education generally. Frederick I., described by his

famous descendant, Frederick the Great, as "great in little things, and little in great ones," died in 1713, and his son Frederick William succeeded him.

CHAPTER III.

Frederick William I.

1713—1740.

*Frederick William's Childhood and Education—
His Economy—Hatred of the French—Con-
clusion of Peace—Treaty of Baden—Neufchâtel
—War with Sweden—Treaty of Stockholm—
The Giant Regiment—Frederick William's Civil
Policy—Flight and Imprisonment of the Crown
Prince—The King's Character and Habits—
His Death.*

FREDERICK WILLIAM I. was twenty-five years old when he ascended the Prussian throne. He had early displayed considerable eccentricity of character and a very daring spirit. Before he was six years old, his governess, Madame de Recoulles, having threatened to punish him for some childish delinquency, he rushed to an open

window, and, bestriding the ledge, declared he would throw himself out, unless she forgave him instantly. General Dohna, his tutor, a man of strictly moral character and very simple manners, probably instilled into him that hatred of the French, and dislike of luxury and show, which distinguished him through life. Dislike of the pedantry of his French master, M. Rebeur, seems to have led to the contempt for learning and learned men which he lost no opportunity of manifesting when in power.

His first act, on taking possession of the government, was to order a sale of the elegant and luxurious articles with which the palace was crowded, and the dismissal of the hundreds of lackeys, pages, and other attendants who had exhausted his father's revenues. The greatest economy was introduced; the Queen, Sophia Dorothea, sister of George II. of England, was allowed only one bed-chamber woman. When the court travelled, her Majesty was obliged, if she required the services of a second attendant, to conceal her among pots and kettles in a baggage waggon. French fashions were expelled the court, and, as far as the King could accomplish it, the country—except in one instance; he

had the jailers and executioners dressed in the latest Parisian fashion, in order to degrade them in the eyes of the people. He himself wore a small bob wig, a plain dark blue uniform with red facings, and a sword at his side. He also invariably carried a stout bamboo cane, with which he chastised his subjects whenever he considered they deserved it. He always spoke German, though French was the language used at that time in all the German courts, and it was considered a mark of low breeding to speak the native tongue. If Frederick William's courtiers dared to "spit and splutter French in his face," as he expressed it, he would threaten them with the cane, and abuse them in unmeasured terms. "I am no Frenchman," he would frequently exclaim; "I don't want to be a Frenchman: German is good enough for me. As soon as my children are born, I will place swords and pistols in their cradles, to teach them to drive the foreigners from Germany."

In 1714 peace was concluded with France; and the Treaty of Baden, signed that year by Germany and France, confirmed the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, concluded the year before between England and Holland on one side, and

France on the other. Prussia gained the principality of Neufchâtel, the King being heir to its late ruler, Marie de Nemours. In 1715, Frederick William was induced to join the league formed by Russia and Saxony against Charles XII. of Sweden, by the promise of the future possession of Pomerania, the greater part of which had been overrun while Charles was obstinately lingering in Turkey. The war went on till his death at Frederickshall in 1718. His successor, Frederick of Hesse-Cassel, desired peace, and secured it in 1720 by the Treaty of Stockholm, in virtue of which Frederick William of Prussia received Stettin and that part of Pomerania between the Oder and the Peene, besides the isles of Wollin and Usedom and a sum of three million dollars. Thus closed the military operations of this reign. Peace was maintained during the remainder of it, no one thinking it worth while to quarrel with the owner of so poor a patrimony as the sandy plains of Brandenburg. Frederick William was sometimes called in derision the "Great Arch-sand-strewer of the Roman Empire." Taunts, however, did him no harm; his disposition was not sensitive; and the long peace enabled him

to accomplish the great object of his life, the creation of a strong, well-disciplined, and numerous army.

The economy which he practised in all the other departments of the State enabled him to expend large sums on his military arrangements. He had a particular fancy for giants, and established a regiment of them, which he supplied at a vast expense from various foreign nations. Peter the Great, who was endeavouring to civilize his barbarous subjects, agreed to allow him to carry off all the giants he could find in Russia in exchange for an equal number of Westphalian whitesmiths. How the persons most concerned liked the arrangement, does not appear; but their feelings were not consulted in the matter. In other countries, however, where the inhabitants enjoyed more freedom, Frederick William's agents sometimes ran considerable risks in kidnapping and carrying off tall men against their will. In Holland one of them was arrested and summarily hanged as a man-stealer; and the Elector of Hanover menaced Frederick William with war, if he persisted in stealing Hanoverians. The King would pay any sum, however high, for his giants. Nine

thousand dollars were once given for one man, who was seven feet high and stoutly built. It cost 300,000 dollars a year to maintain this regiment, which was Frederick William's pride and almost only amusement. He used to make his favourite giants sit to him for their portraits; but if the likeness happened to be bad (which it generally was), the man was painted till he bore—or was supposed to bear—some resemblance to his picture. The rest of the army was not neglected; it was Frederick William's desire to raise Prussia by means of it to the first rank among the powers of Europe.

In civil matters he was extremely despotic, although fond of calling himself the "Servant of the State." He liked to maintain justice, or what he considered to be such, but had no scruple in breaking the laws, whenever they interfered with his wishes. For example, a Count Von Schlubeuth had been guilty of some act of shameful extortion, and was condemned to imprisonment in a fortress, as a punishment. The sentence was submitted to the King. "Nonsense!" he exclaimed. "If a poor starving wretch steals a few wretched dollars, you put him to death; but a fellow like this, who

had the jailers and executioners dressed in the latest Parisian fashion, in order to degrade them in the eyes of the people. He himself wore a small bob wig, a plain dark blue uniform with red facings, and a sword at his side. He also invariably carried a stout bamboo cane, with which he chastised his subjects whenever he considered they deserved it. He always spoke German, though French was the language used at that time in all the German courts, and it was considered a mark of low breeding to speak the native tongue. If Frederick William's courtiers dared to "spit and splutter French in his face," as he expressed it, he would threaten them with the cane, and abuse them in unmeasured terms. "I am no Frenchman," he would frequently exclaim; "I don't want to be a Frenchman: German is good enough for me. As soon as my children are born, I will place swords and pistols in their cradles, to teach them to drive the foreigners from Germany."

In 1714 peace was concluded with France; and the Treaty of Baden, signed that year by Germany and France, confirmed the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, concluded the year before between England and Holland on one side, and

their work, he punished in the same manner till they sometimes roared for mercy. On one occasion a Jew, who was aware of the King's propensities, catching sight of him coming down the street, suddenly took to his heels. Frederick William gave chase and caught him. "Why did you run away from me, rascal?" he demanded, raising his cane. "I was afraid, may it please your Majesty," replied the unfortunate Jew. "How dare you be afraid, sir?" returned the King, giving him a severe castigation: "don't you know, dolt, that I am the father of my people, and expect to be loved, and not feared?" The King did not confine his use of the cane to minor offenders of this kind. He once beat the whole of the military council because they had dared to condemn one of his giants to death for stealing.

He was extremely severe and particular in his own family. He had ordered that all private houses as well as places of public entertainment should be closed at nine o'clock at night. The Queen had several times broken this rule by permitting her guests to remain in her drawing-room a little later than the hour prescribed. The court chaplain, Reinbeck, was

surprised one night by a visit from a muffled stranger, who delivered him an anonymous letter in a disguised hand. The note said "it would be well if her Majesty's Confessor warned her to close her apartments at seasonable hours, lest it should come to the ears of the King." The stranger was Frederick William himself. His son offended him by licentious conduct and a partiality for French literature and what his father considered effeminate amusements (such as writing poetry and playing the flute), and consequently received correction frequently. In 1730, the Prince, tired of the severe rule of the King, plotted an escape to England; but the scheme was discovered, and the King was so much enraged that it was difficult to persuade him to spare his son's life. The Prince was imprisoned for about a year, but was afterwards reconciled to his father; and having married at his command a German princess, instead of the English one he desired, was allowed to live quietly at the castle of Rheinsberg in the enjoyment of his favourite pursuits.

In 1732, Prussia received a large accession of population. The Archbishop of Salzburg cruelly persecuted the Protestant inhabitants

of his territories; and the majority of them sought and found refuge in Prussia, as many of the French Huguenots had done after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in the time of the great Elector. Frederick William received them kindly and treated them very liberally. He also built an orphan asylum for soldiers' children, capable of containing two thousand five hundred children.

The King's character was respectable. He was a faithful husband to Sophia Dorothea his Queen, although his marriage had been one of policy, not affection. He was attached to Caroline of Anspach, who afterwards became the prudent Queen of George II. of England; and he always retained a grudge against that monarch for marrying her and obliging him to put up with his sister Sophia as a substitute. His domestic habits were very simple and his ideas of pleasure somewhat coarse. Drinking beer and smoking strong tobacco were almost his only relaxations. He established what he called a "Tobacco College." Foreign princes, when they paid him a visit, instead of being entertained with splendid banquets and magnificent fêtes, were introduced by the King into

the smoking-room, and half-poisoned with the fumes of beer and tobacco. When they had an object to gain they pretended to like it, and joined in the smoking. The King's delight was to make them intoxicated with the beer, or sick with the tobacco. Francis of Lorraine, afterwards Emperor, wishing to ingratiate himself with Frederick William, paid frequent visits to the Tobacco College. When the King was at Potsdam, a village schoolmaster regularly attended these convivial parties. The following circumstance had brought him under the monarch's notice. In one of his solitary rambles, Frederick William had entered his school, and ordered the boys to shout out, "Our master is an ass!" They declined to obey. "I am the King," said Frederick William, "and can command obedience." "Very likely," said a boy, bolder than the rest; "but our master can command it too, and we are more afraid of him than of you." The King commended the schoolmaster highly for maintaining such excellent discipline, and invited him to the palace, where from that time he was a frequent guest.

Some respectable burghers of Potsdam were

also members of the Tobacco College. No formality was allowed at the meetings. The guests did not rise when the King entered the room. He sat on a three-legged stool with a short pipe in his mouth and a mug of beer before him; the rest were arranged on benches near him. The most important matters of state were frequently settled at these meetings. Frederick William was so fond of them that even in his last illness he used to be carried into the smoking-room, or assemble the members of the "College" round his bed.

He died on the 3rd of May, 1740, aged 51, after a reign of twenty-seven years, leaving the throne to his eldest son, Frederick, who attended his death-bed. The reconciliation between them was complete; and it is said the King thanked God with his last breath for having vouchsafed him so excellent a successor.

Frederick William was in some respects a good King. He left an army of 70,000 men, a well-filled treasury, a territory which had increased in his reign to 46,000 square miles, and a population which had risen to the number of 2,240,000. He had carefully repaired the fortresses in his dominions, and, as we have

already mentioned, improved and beautified Berlin and Potsdam. In spite of his arbitrary conduct, he seems to have been truly patriotic, and to have really sought the good of his people. He certainly banished much evil from his kingdom, and tried to cultivate moral and industrious habits in his subjects. He seems to have felt a respect for religion, though his life showed he was experimentally ignorant of its true nature. He discouraged learning and learned men. The philosopher Gundling, though a Baron, Privy Councillor and President of the Academy of Sciences, was compelled to submit to the grossest insults at the Court. The King used to have an ape dressed exactly like him placed at his side at dinner; and when the Professor died, he was buried, by the King's order, in a cask instead of a coffin. Literature and the arts could hardly be expected to flourish under such a sovereign. His main object was the transformation of Prussia into a first-rate military power; in this, to a great extent, he succeeded, and the genius of his son completely accomplished the design.

CHAPTER IV.

**Frederick II., called Sanspareil, and the
Great.**

1740—1745

*Frederick's Early History—Education—Tastes—
Disagreements with his Father—Reconciliation
and Marriage—War with Austria—Silesia
overrun—Schwerin—Battle of Molwitz—Battle
of Cholusitz—Peace—Embassy of Voltaire—
War recommenced—Frederick's Victories—
Peace with England—Treaty of Dresden.*

FREDERICK was born in January, 1712. He was an extremely beautiful and very intelligent child. His father placed him under the care of the same Madame de Recoulles he had himself tormented in his boyhood: whether Frederick proved a more tractable pupil, it is impossible to say. At the age of five he was promoted to the dignity of commander of a

troop of little boys of his own age; and at twelve he is said to have displayed considerable talent in manœuvering them. Count Finkenstein was his Governor, and Duhon, a Frenchman, assisted in his education. The King issued strict orders that neither Latin nor Greek should be included in his studies. One attempt was nevertheless made to instruct him in the classics, but Frederick William happening to enter the room at the time, discovered what was going on, and, driving the tutor from the apartment with his cane, put an end to the lesson. French was so universally used on the Continent, that, much as he hated it, Frederick William felt it was a necessary accomplishment for his children, and allowed them to learn it. The Prince, who was unacquainted with any good writer in German, soon became devoted to French literature. He learned drawing and flute-playing. Of the latter diversion he was very fond. If religious instruction formed any part of his education, it had little effect either on his head or heart, for he became infidel in his principles, and immoral in his life at an early age.

While still a youth Frederick became an

object of dislike to his royal father, from whose coarse amusements and rough method of correction he shrank in a manner which led the King to suppose him an effeminate coward. In 1728 the Prince accompanied his father on a visit to Frederick Augustus of Saxony. He was dazzled by the splendour and brilliancy of the Court at Dresden, which offered a striking contrast to that of Berlin. From this time he seems to have fallen into profligate habits, in which he was encouraged by a dissipated young man of infidel opinions, named Katte. The King grew more and more dissatisfied with his son, who was obliged to have recourse to absurd expedients to hide his favourite pastimes from the sharp eyes of his parent. One evening the Prince, Katte, and the celebrated flute-player Quanz (whom Frederick had secretly invited to Berlin), were sitting together, amusing themselves with books and music. Suddenly they heard the King approaching; Quanz and the flute were hidden in the chimney, and Frederick had just time to change his *robe de chambre* for a uniform coat, when the door opened. All might have been well, but unhappily the Prince wore a silk cap, which in the confusion and

hurry he had forgotten to remove. It had much the same effect on Frederick William as red cloth is understood to have upon bulls; he scolded his son severely, kicked Katte downstairs, and sent all Frederick's books back to the bookseller's where they had been purchased.

Kicks, canings, and other punishments were now liberally bestowed on the Prince, while his favourite sister Wilhelmina, who took his part, was not much better treated. Frederick got tired of this kind of life, and determined to escape to England, where he hoped to marry one of his cousins, the English Princesses. The Queen rather encouraged the idea of the marriage. In 1730, while on a tour in Germany, Frederick prepared for flight. He made one unsuccessful attempt; but having solemnly assured the King, when brought back, that he was merely taking a ride for pleasure, the offence was passed over without much notice. A little later Frederick determined to try again, and wrote to his friend Katte, telling him to join him in England. The letter was not properly directed, and fell into the hands of another officer named Katte, who at once forwarded it to the King. Frederick William was at Frank-

fort, just stepping on to the deck of a vessel which was to carry his party down the Rhine, when he received the missive. His rage and fury (no milder term would convey an adequate idea of his state of mind) were unbounded. He flew at his son like a madman, and struck him on the face with his fists till it was covered with blood. He would have murdered him on the spot, but for the interference of his officers, who at length persuaded him to permit the Prince to be removed as a state prisoner to Wesel, while he returned by another route to Berlin.

One of Frederick's confederates, named Keith, was able to escape in time; the other, the unfortunate Katte, was arrested. Frederick was removed from Wesel to Mittenwald, and finally to Küstrin. Katte was condemned by the court-martial which tried him to several years' imprisonment and hard labour. The King changed the sentence to death by beheading! Every one was shocked at so sanguinary a measure. The father and grandfather of the young culprit threw themselves at the feet of their sovereign, and passionately implored mercy. Frederick William was quite unmoved

a reconciliation was effected. The following November he was permitted to appear at Court, on the occasion of his sister Wilhelmina's marriage to the Margrave of Baireuth. The next day he was restored to the rank he had previously held in the army, and sent back to Küstrin, where he was employed for some time in the business of the War Office.

In 1732, Frederick married in obedience to the wishes of the King, who, notwithstanding the annoyance his own matrimonial disappointment had caused him, did not hesitate to inflict a similar vexation on his son. Frederick, however, had never seen the English Princess on whom he had set his fancy, and no real affection for her could have existed in his heart; it is therefore highly probable that he was as happy with the bride of his father's choice as he would have been with any one. Elizabeth of Brunswick-Bevern was young, pleasing, amiable, and intellectual, devoted to her husband, whom she admired and loved in spite of his coldness, and altogether a model of what a wife should be. She was, however, very sincerely pious; and it is possible that her religion helped to render her society distasteful to the Prince.

The King assigned the castle of Rheinsberg, near Rüppen, as a residence to the bridal pair. Frederick was obliged to live on good terms with his wife, for fear of offending his father; and her forbearance, and the respect he could not help feeling for her character, rendered this comparatively easy. He seems to have passed his life at Rheinsberg very agreeably. He laid out gardens and terraces, built temples and obelisks, and erected splendid conservatories, which he filled with rare fruits and flowers. He surrounded himself with his favourite companions, who were principally Frenchmen, and read Voltaire and played the flute to his heart's content. While in this delightful retreat, Frederick began his long correspondence with Voltaire, he sent the famous French infidel a copy of one of his works, entitled "*The Anti-Machiavel*," which Voltaire praised and promised to get published for him.


In 1740 the diversions of Rheinsberg were suddenly interrupted by the death of the King, and Frederick's consequent elevation to the throne. In the course of the same year died Charles VI., Emperor of Germany. He had no son, and before his death had issued a law, called

the Pragmatic Sanction, by virtue of which his daughter Maria Theresa was to succeed to his vast possessions. England, France, Prussia, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, as well as all the minor German states, had solemnly promised to uphold and maintain this arrangement. Yet no sooner was the Emperor laid in the tomb than his young and beautiful daughter found her rights disputed, and enemies ready to start up on all sides. Charles, Elector of Bavaria, a descendant of Ferdinand I. in the female line, laid claim to the whole of her patrimony. Frederick of Prussia, scarcely seated on his throne, forgetful of the excellent maxims of his "Anti-Machiavel," determined to take advantage of the favourable moment to add Silesia to his dominions. It was necessary to find some excuse for such a glaring act of spoliation, so he revived some ancient claims on the duchies of Wohlan, Leignitz, Brieg, and Jagerndorf, which no one had heard of for a century past; and without losing a day put his army in motion.

Many of his troops were already on Austrian soil, when he sent his ultimatum to the Empress. It consisted of an offer to stand by

her against any other power, if she would make over Silesia to him at once. The high-spirited Maria Theresa, who had already experienced the worthlessness of his promises, indignantly rejected the proposition. Austria was entirely unprepared for war. The troops which happened to be in Silesia, few in number and unprepared for action, were quite inadequate to defend the province against the numerous and powerful army of Prussia. Frederick carried all before him; Breslau opened its gates to him; the defenders of Ohlan fled; and the whole province submitted, a few strong places with garrisons excepted. This campaign took place in the autumn of 1740. In January, 1741, Frederick returned victorious to Berlin. As yet, however, he had his reputation to gain. He was regarded up to this time rather as an outrageous violator of treaties than as a hero. There was no great credit in defeating an unprepared and consequently unresisting enemy.

Meanwhile, his example had been extensively followed. France, the ancient foe of Austria, declared in favour of the pretensions of Charles of Bavaria. The Kings of Poland and Saxony took the same course. Poor Maria



Theresa's courage was severely tried, but she was equal to the emergency. The Hungarians, won by her beauty and fascinations, sprang to arms in her defence. England, which stood almost alone in honourably observing a treaty all Europe had signed, gave her moral support, and before long granted her more substantial aid.

Frederick rejoined his army in the spring. The Austrians were advancing to the support of the garrisons in the fortresses which still held out against him. Field-Marshal Schwerin was his principal adviser. A Pomeranian by birth, he had fought under the most distinguished warriors of his age, had shared in the victory of Blenheim under Marlborough, and been a companion in arms of Charles XII. at Bender. Frederick was highly favoured in having the experience and skill of this veteran at his command; and to him he was indebted for his first victory. The Austrian and Prussian armies met at Molwitz, near Brieg in Silesia, on the 10th of April, 1741. The contest was sharp. Frederick himself commanded the cavalry, which were repulsed; and in the alarm and agitation consequent on this check, he was per-

suaded to fly from the field, supposing all to be lost. He took refuge in a mill, many miles from the scene of the encounter, and there received, late at night, the intelligence that Schwerin, though wounded in two places, had won a splendid victory, and that the Austrians had lost 8000 men. Frederick was overwhelmed with shame and mortification; but, however little pleasure this victory, won by Schwerin after his ignominious flight, could afford him, it served his cause materially. All the enemies of Austria were encouraged, and Maria Theresa's territories were invaded on every side. Charles of Bavaria was elected Emperor of Germany. A French army crossed the Rhine, invaded Bohemia, and took Prague. Frederick invaded Moravia, took Olmutz, and engaged in battle with Prince Charles of Lorraine (brother to the husband of Maria Theresa) at Cholusitz. This time Frederick displayed courage and a certain amount of talent; but he confessed himself in later days, that he owed the victory which he then gained more to the firmness of his men, than to any skill of his own.

The English Government now strongly advised Maria Theresa to make peace on any terms

with Frederick, and detach him from the hostile confederacy. The Empress-Queen was very unwilling to take this advice; but England was her only friend, and as no better plan could be devised, she gave way. Frederick gladly accepted Silesia, and abandoned his allies without the slightest compunction, in 1742. Count Brühl, on receipt of a bribe in the shape of lands in Bohemia, persuaded his master, the Elector of Saxony, to make peace with Austria at the same time. Maria Theresa, strengthened by a subsidy from England, was now able to turn her whole power against France and Bavaria. The result was the retreat of Marshal Belleisle from Bohemia, leaving behind him the greater part of his army, victims to the sword of the enemy or the severity of the season. Bavaria was overrun by some of the half-savage tribes from the southern borders of Maria Theresa's ancestral domains, and the Bavarian army completely defeated at Braunau by Khevenhüller. George II. of England landed in Germany, and vanquished the French at Dettingen (in Hesse-Darmstadt), on the 27th of June, 1743.

About this time, Frederick of Prussia suc-

ceeded to the government of East Friesland, as heir to its late ruler.

Prince Charles of Lorraine carried his victorious arms into Alsace and Lorraine, laying them waste. The French Government sent Voltaire as ambassador to Frederick, in the hope of obtaining his aid in the straits to which it was reduced. Voltaire was received with the utmost respect by his Royal admirer, but he failed in his mission. Frederick wrote poems on the back of the political papers Voltaire presented; and the philosopher's hopes of distinction as a diplomatist were disappointed. Neither had much opinion of the other in the characters they affected on this occasion. Voltaire in reality thought Frederick's verses execrable, and Frederick privately laughed at Voltaire's political performances.

France, however, soon got all she wanted, though she owed it to no exertion of her own. Frederick became alarmed at the brilliant success of Austria, and began to fear that Maria Theresa, when she had vanquished all her other foes, would imitate his bad faith, and, turning her arms against him, seize Silesia. Accordingly, in the autumn of 1744, he marched

through Saxony without the Elector's permission, and invaded Bohemia without warning. He took Prague, and threatened Vienna, which Prince Charles saved by endangering Frederick's communications with Silesia. All Saxony, too, was in arms to avenge the insult he had just offered the Elector, so the Prussian monarch was obliged to retreat, and was glad to reach his own dominions in safety.

The next year he was more successful. He again took up arms, and gained one great victory at Hohenfriedberg, and another at Sorr (in Bohemia), over Prince Lobkowitz. In these battles Frederick displayed real genius, and showed that he had profited by his previous failures. Charles VII. died in this year; and his son not wishing to continue the contest, Bavaria and Austria concluded peace. Austria and England then remained leagued against France and Prussia. France was very successful in the Netherlands, where the Duke of Cumberland was defeated at Fontenoy. Frederick no longer feared Maria Theresa would become strong enough to deprive him of Silesia, and began to think of peace. The French were naturally indignant; but it was

one of Frederick's rules never to allow the interests of an ally to interfere with his own. In the autumn of 1745, he made peace with England, and immediately afterwards concluded the Treaty of Dresden with Austria, by which he was confirmed in the possession of Silesia.

Maria Theresa's husband, Francis of Lorraine, was this year elected Emperor; and in October 1748, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle restored peace to Europe. France had gained nothing by the war; and Austria, which at the beginning seemed likely to be destroyed altogether, lost only (in addition to Silesia) Parma, Placentia, and Guastella, petty Italian States which were ceded to Spain. Frederick of Prussia, who had begun the war so dishonourably, earned a high military reputation and added a fine province to his kingdom.

CHAPTER V.

Frederick II. (*continued*).

1745—1756.

*The King's Industry—Specimen of his Notes—
His Respect for the Laws—Sans Souci—Fre-
derick's Pursuits—Visit from Voltaire—Quar-
rel between Voltaire and the King—Departure
of Voltaire—Correspondence with Voltaire.*

PRUSSIA now enjoyed eleven years of peace, which the King devoted to the improvement of his dominions. He attended to business of all kinds himself. The following lines will give some idea of his method of transacting it. The notes were written, some in German and some in French, in both cases very incorrectly spelt. One passage, it will be seen, is printed exactly as it appeared in the original; the orthography of the other notes is not at all better¹.

¹ See Lord Mahon's History of England, Appendix to Vol. IV.

Petition from the town of Frankfort-on-Oder against the quartering of troops upon them.

Why, it cannot be otherwise. Do they think I can put the regiment in my pocket? But the barracks shall be rebuilt.

Petition from the Jew Meyer Benjamin at Magdeburg, for admission to equal privileges with Christian tradesmen.

Let the Jew immediately take himself away from Magdeburg, or the Commandant shall kick him out.

Petition from Geheimer Rath von Brandt, for the payment of his account for postage of letters, amounting to 113 dollars.

I shall send him no money to help his writing. He already writes his fingers off. Let him write me what is really useful, and not so much useless stuff, that gives me no information.

Petition from the Over-Auditor-General at Berlin, complaining of the appointment of Over-Auditor Reinecke as General Auditor, and stating his own claims as the senior of all the Over-Auditors, and as having served the State for thirty years.

I have in my stable a parcel of old mules who have served me a long while, but I have not yet found any of them apply to be made superintendent of the stable.

Petition from the Vicar-General of the Dominicans at Neisse, that some of the brotherhood may have leave to give spiritual assistance to the garrison.

They may; but if they should lead any soldier to desert, the Vicar-General must make up his mind to see them hanged.

Report from the Cabinet Ministers, stating that on a recent conclusion of a treaty with a foreign power they had been offered a *cadeau*, a thing, they observe, not unusual, but done in an unusual manner.

Project of Colonel von W. for obtaining without any fresh burden on the people a million and a half additional revenue.

Petition from Herr von Marschall, that the sentence against him in the Court of Appeal may be mitigated.

Je consois toute la repugnance Monsieur que Vous aurez à ressevoir cette reconnaissance; mais je suppose que Vous Vous ferez la duce violance de L'accepter.

He may keep those millions for himself.


The laws are supreme above all men, whether *marshals* or not; and if that does not suit the gentleman, he may go out of the country as his brother has done.

Frederick's regard for the laws was not affected. He had a new code drawn up, and took pains to ensure its observance. He maintained the army in a state of efficiency; and by instituting a rigid economy contrived to make his very limited revenue support a military force out of all proportion to the size of Prussia, though not to its requirements, if it was to remain what it had become—a first-rate power in Europe. The King's civil reforms, no less

than his military achievements, rendered him highly popular with his subjects; but he retired as much as possible into private life. He built a magnificent palace, called Sans Souci, near Berlin, departing in this instance from his ordinary economical habits; for its cost was so great that he destroyed the accounts connected with it, that posterity might never know how much he had expended.

Immediately after his accession he had separated from his Queen, Elizabeth. He assigned her a château for her residence, and allowed her a regular maintenance, had her treated with all possible respect by foreign ambassadors and his own subjects, dined in state with her two or three times a year, and, in short, gave her every thing but what she most desired—the love and society of her husband. She outlived him about a dozen years, and died at last, universally respected for her charity and many other virtues.

At Sans Souci Frederick led an industrious and hard-working, but at the same time very comfortable life. When he had accomplished his state business, he turned for relaxation to literature, music, and science. Concerts, in



which he took a part, literary conversation, and composition, were his favourite employments. He wrote a great deal both of prose and verse, and laboured hard to become a first-rate poet. Every thing around him was French. His favourite companions were almost all French; he read French books, and ate French dishes. He despised the German language as much as his father had despised the French: indeed he could not understand it thoroughly; German poetry was incomprehensible to him. He spelled very badly to the end of his life, never having mastered the difficult orthography of his adopted tongue, and being utterly ignorant of his own.

Maupertuis and Baculard d'Arnaud, a young French poet of whom great things were expected, were among the members of his Court. The Marquis d'Argens was one of his favourites. He was an accomplished and highly polished French gentleman, of elegant tastes and infidel principles, but also one of the most timid and superstitious men in the world. Frederick was fond of playing practical jokes on him. Knowing his extreme anxiety about his health, he would sometimes suddenly interrupt himself in the course of conversation with the exclamation,

“D’Argens, how ill you look !” The Marquis, dreadfully frightened, would hasten home and pass a day or two in bed, to the King’s great diversion.

Frederick greatly desired the presence of Voltaire, without which he considered his brilliant supper parties incomplete. He sent him most pressing invitations, offered him a thousand louis to defray the expense of his journey, and all sorts of honours and distinctions as soon as he arrived at Berlin. It happened that Voltaire was not comfortable in his own country, and consequently desired a change. The tragedies of Crébillon had been preferred by the French public to his; and the vain little mind of the Genius could not endure the blow. Furious against his fellow-countrymen for not appreciating him more highly, he was willing to exile himself to Berlin. His avarice, however, induced him to ask for another thousand louis to pay his niece’s travelling expenses. This was too much for Frederick (who had already offered Voltaire much more than he ever paid his ambassadors), and he quietly refused, saying, “He had not requested the honour of the lady’s visit.” Voltaire went

into a violent passion when he received this reply, and threatened to stay at Paris. Frederick pretended to be indifferent and even disposed to give Baculard d'Arnaud the place hitherto held by Voltaire in his estimation; he wrote some lines comparing Voltaire to the setting and D'Arnaud to the rising sun. Voltaire was duly informed of the progress of events, and again giving way to a paroxysm of rage, started for Berlin at once.

Frederick received him most graciously, pressed his hand to his lips, gave him a pension of 800*l.* a year, made him Chamberlain, placed the royal household at his disposal, and showed him unbounded respect and admiration. But this state of things did not last long. Voltaire was grasping and Frederick stingy, and each was provoked with the other. Frederick curtailed Voltaire's allowance of chocolate, and Voltaire stole the candles in the royal antechamber. Frederick mortified Voltaire's vanity with his biting sarcasms; Voltaire retaliated by speaking contemptuously of Frederick's poetry, which always infuriated him.

Voltaire was continually at war with the other *savants* of the Court, and Frederick mis-

chievously fomented their quarrels for his own amusement: he soon discovered that he had raised a tempest which he was quite unable to quell. Voltaire detested Maupertuis, and wrote a severe satire on him, which he showed the King. Frederick fully appreciated the wit displayed in the production, but requested Voltaire not to publish it; for as Maupertuis was President of the Berlin Academy, perhaps the King himself, who had appointed him President, would come in for a share of the ridicule intended only for Maupertuis. Voltaire promised to suppress it, but broke his word, and published it. Frederick was furious. Voltaire tried to appease his anger by inventing some story about the printer's bringing it out without permission; but the King was not to be deceived in that way. He had the pamphlet burnt by the common hangman. Voltaire returned the badge of his Order and the patent of his pension. After this violent outbreak both parties were ashamed of themselves, and a hollow reconciliation was brought about; but they hated one another in their hearts, and were glad to part.

Voltaire took his leave of the Prussian Court,

carrying with him a volume of Frederick's manuscript works. What his object was in abstracting this literary treasure, it is hard to conceive; very probably he packed it up by accident. Frederick, however, who entertained an extravagantly high opinion of his poetical productions, was convinced that Voltaire meditated plagiarism. He sent after his guest, arrested him at Frankfort, and recovered the precious volume. The Prussian soldiers employed treated Voltaire with great indignity; they confined him for nearly a fortnight in a miserable hut, and guards with fixed bayonets kept watch over him. They also extorted a large sum of money from him, and insulted his niece, Madame Denis. As Frederick never punished the perpetrators of this outrage, he may fairly be considered responsible for it, even if not, as some persons think, the real author of it.

Voltaire, when set at liberty, retired to Ferney in Switzerland. The Prussians about the Court were delighted at his expulsion, for he had made himself detested by his insolence. He once called a page of the King's "a Pomeranian beast;" the youth remembered the insult,

and when, a short time after, Frederick made a progress in Pomerania, taking Voltaire in his train, the page spread a report that he was the King's monkey. His withered and hideously ugly face, as well as his foreign language, favoured the deception, and the mob surrounded the carriage, climbed up to the windows, and teased him as they would have done a real ape.

Strange to say, after an interval of a few years, Voltaire and Frederick renewed their correspondence, and though they frequently quarrelled and sent one another most insulting letters, they continued on amicable terms to the end of Frederick's life. At the same time they habitually abused each other in unmeasured terms. Frederick used to say Voltaire was the greatest scoundrel on the face of the earth, and the philosopher was equally uncomplimentary in speaking of him.

CHAPTER VI.


Frederick II. (*continued*).

1756—1763.

Commencement of the Seven Years' War—Conquest of Saxony—Victory of Zorndorf—Disastrous surprise of the Prussian Camp at Hochkirchen—Victory of Minden—Defeat at Kunnersdorf—Berlin captured—Victory of Torgau—Death of George II. of England and Elizabeth of Russia—Peace with Russia—Treaty of Hubertsburg.

THE long peace was now drawing to a close. Maria Theresa had never forgiven the shameful manner in which Frederick had treated her, and earnestly desired to recover Silesia. She sought to establish a powerful European coalition, strong enough to crush Prussia at a blow. Frederick's bitter sarcasms on the immorality of Elizabeth of Russia, the weakness of Louis of France,

and the arrogance of Madame de Pompadour, his reigning favourite, had made all three his personal enemies. Maria Theresa hoped their resentment would serve to forward her scheme. In 1756 she pointed out to Louis XV. that in the last war France, after all her expenditure of blood and treasure, had gained absolutely nothing, while Frederick had considerably enlarged his dominions. She offered, if France would join Austria in an alliance against Prussia, to cede voluntarily some provinces in Belgium which the French had coveted for years, in return for aid in reconquering Silesia. Madame de Pompadour was propitiated by an autograph letter from the Empress, couched in the most flattering terms; and her influence at once turned the scale in favour of the Austrian alliance. Sweden also joined the league, French influence being predominant in that country. Prussia was to be divided among the allied powers. Saxony was to have Magdeburg, Sweden Pomerania, and the rest was partitioned out in a similar manner. All the German states—Hesse-Cassel, Brunswick, Lippe, and Gotha excepted—sided with Austria; and Russia prepared to join the coalition.



So vast a scheme could not be kept entirely secret. Frederick, by means of spies, found out what was going on. His case seemed hopeless ; what could a small State like his, and an army of 160,000 men, however well disciplined and directed, do against all Europe with half a million of troops? Most men would have despaired. Frederick did not ; but he felt he was in fearful danger, and provided against being ever taken alive and forced to consent to the dismemberment of his kingdom, by carrying poison about with him. He relied on his own genius and on the aid of the English, who were as ready now to defend Prussia from the oppression of Austria, as they had previously been to defend the Empress when oppressed by France and Prussia.

Seeing that the struggle was inevitable, Frederick judged it wise to strike the first blow. In August, 1756, after demanding an explicit declaration of her intentions from Maria Theresa, and receiving an evasive and unsatisfactory reply, he suddenly invaded Saxony, blockaded Pirna, where the Elector and his army were stationed, and took Dresden, where he found papers which betrayed the whole plan of the

allies, and made it evident to the world that Frederick this time was really only fighting in self-defence. A strong Austrian force under Marshal Browne was on its way from Bohemia to the relief of Pirna. Frederick left troops enough in Saxony to maintain the blockade, and hastening to Bohemia with the rest, met Browne at Lowusitz, fought and completely defeated him on the 1st of October, 1756. The Saxon army, reduced to such extremities of famine that they were compelled to eat hair-powder mixed with gunpowder, and deprived by Browne's defeat of all hope of speedy succour, laid down their arms on the 15th of October. The Elector and his favourite Brühl escaped to Poland, and Saxony became for the time a Prussian province. Frederick treated it with great severity, forced the inhabitants to fight under his banners, and exacted a ruinous war contribution. . . .

Winter now intervened and the belligerents rested on their arms. Frederick remained in Saxony and made preparations for the spring campaign. He was again the first to move. He did not much fear Sweden, England he hoped would keep France in check, and the

100,000 men Russia was about to bring into the field would necessarily be delayed some time by the snows; so he calculated on having to deal with the Austrians alone at the commencement of hostilities. The Diet put Frederick out of the ban of the Empire in the early part of 1757.

In April he invaded Bohemia. A large Austrian army under Prince Charles of Lorraine and Marshal Browne lay before Prague. Frederick, aware that another force under Marshal Daun, one of the ablest of the Austrian generals, was advancing towards the spot, determined to engage Browne before its arrival. He led his men to the attack over a morass (which he had mistaken for meadow land) in the face of a destructive fire. Marshal Schwerin ventured to question the prudence of this proceeding, and advised the king to defer the attack till the next morning. Frederick insultingly replied. "Are you afraid?" The noble old veteran felt the taunt keenly: he leapt from his horse, snatched the colours from an ensign, and shouting, "All who are not cowards, follow me," led the infantry to the charge. The attack was successful, the victory was won;

but when all was over, Schwerin was found dead on the battle-field, the standard still firmly grasped in his cold and lifeless hand. Frederick and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick both distinguished themselves in this action, which was fought on the 6th of May. Though victorious, Frederick lost a large number of men, no less than 18,000, according to his own computation. The Austrians lost 24,000, wounded and prisoners included. Marshal Browne was among the slain.

The remnant of the defeated army took refuge in Prague, which still held out, Daun was approaching, and Frederick marched to meet him, leaving a sufficient number of troops to carry on the siege of Prague. With 30,000 men he reached Kolin, where Daun had intrenched himself in an almost impregnable position, and calmly awaited an attack. The battle took place on the 18th of June. Frederick charged Daun's batteries three times in vain, being repulsed with severe loss at each attempt. Finally Beckendorf charged the Prussians at the head of four Saxon regiments burning for revenge on Frederick, and completely routed them. Frederick made desperate efforts to rally

the miserable remains of his shattered army, and lingered on the field so long that his officers asked, "Does your Majesty mean to storm the batteries alone?" At length he withdrew. He had lost 14,000 of his best troops, all his artillery and baggage, and (what was worse still in his position) the prestige which had hitherto always attended his arms was gone too. Never was a defeat more crushing; still Frederick did not despair. His officers found him melancholy and alone, listlessly drawing figures on the sand with a stick, on the evening of the dreadful reverse. "It has been a day of sorrow for us, my children," he said, when they told him that not a single grenadier of his magnificent guard remained alive, "but have patience; all will yet be well."

He was forced to raise the siege of Prague, and retreat from Bohemia. A few weeks later he sustained another severe blow. The Duke of Cumberland, defeated at Hastenbeck by the French, signed a humiliating treaty at Closter Severn on the 8th of September, by which he agreed to disband his troops. His father, George II., afterwards refused to ratify the compact; still, the French were for the time

at liberty to turn their arms against Frederick. To add to his embarrassment, an immense Russian army, under General Apraxin, defeated a Prussian force of 20,000 men under General Lewald at Gross Zagerndorf on the 30th of August, and soon spread over East Prussia, while Breslau was taken and Silesia occupied by the Austrians, and Berlin pillaged by the Cro-
atians.

Besides these public calamities, Frederick had to bear the loss of his brother and mother, who expired about this time; and he seems to have felt his mother's demise as deeply as he could feel any thing. All these troubles were not without their effect on his health; he grew so thin and haggard that the Saxons hardly recognized him when he appeared among them after his retreat from Bohemia. His sleep was disturbed, and irrepressible tears often filled his eyes. He even meditated suicide, and yet his devotion to the Muse was as great as ever. He still went on writing pages of indifferent verses, as if he had nothing else to occupy his mind.

In November, having re-organized his army, he made his appearance in the field, and en-

the miserable remains of his shattered army, and lingered on the field so long that his officers asked, "Does your Majesty mean to storm the batteries alone?" At length he withdrew. He had lost 14,000 of his best troops, all his artillery and baggage, and (what was worse still in his position) the prestige which had hitherto always attended his arms was gone too. Never was a defeat more crushing; still Frederick did not despair. His officers found him melancholy and alone, listlessly drawing figures on the sand with a stick, on the evening of the dreadful reverse. "It has been a day of sorrow for us, my children," he said, when they told him that not a single grenadier of his magnificent guard remained alive, "but have patience; all will yet be well."

He was forced to raise the siege of Prague, and retreat from Bohemia. A few weeks later he sustained another severe blow. The Duke of Cumberland, defeated at Hastenbeck by the French, signed a humiliating treaty at Closter Severn on the 8th of September, by which he agreed to disband his troops. His father, George II., afterwards refused to ratify the compact; still, the French were for the time

at liberty to turn their arms against Frederick. To add to his embarrassment, an immense Russian army, under General Apraxin, defeated a Prussian force of 20,000 men under General Lewald at Gross Zagerndorf on the 30th of August, and soon spread over East Prussia, while Breslau was taken and Silesia occupied by the Austrians, and Berlin pillaged by the Cro-
atians.

Besides these public calamities, Frederick had to bear the loss of his brother and mother, who expired about this time; and he seems to have felt his mother's demise as deeply as he could feel any thing. All these troubles were not without their effect on his health; he grew so thin and haggard that the Saxons hardly recognized him when he appeared among them after his retreat from Bohemia. His sleep was disturbed, and irrepressible tears often filled his eyes. He even meditated suicide, and yet his devotion to the Muse was as great as ever. He still went on writing pages of indifferent verses, as if he had nothing else to occupy his mind.

In November, having re-organized his army, he made his appearance in the field, and en-

countered the Austrians and French under the Duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen and Marshal Soubise at Rosbach, near Leipsic, in Saxony, on the 5th. The Imperialists were three times as numerous as the Prussians, and considered themselves sure of the victory; but they were nevertheless thrown into confusion by Frederick's first charge, and took to flight *en masse*, a small body of Swiss excepted, who stood their ground gallantly. The Austrians seemed to hate their ally more than their enemy. A Prussian soldier was carrying off a French prisoner, when he found himself attacked by an Austrian. "Brother German," he said, "let me have the Frenchman." "Take him," said the Austrian, riding away, "and keep him by all means." The Prussians only lost 160 men altogether. Frederick proposed to his officers as a riddle, "What German Prince has the largest retinue?" *Answer*: "The Duke of Hildburghausen, for he has 50,000 runners." Ten thousand French prisoners were taken. General Seidlitz led the first charge in this battle; he was famed for his bravery and daring horsemanship. It is said that he could ride between the sails of a windmill in motion.

No sooner was this victory won, than Frederick turned towards Silesia, and on the 5th of December gave battle to Prince Charles of Lorraine at Leuthen, near Breslau. He collected his officers, and addressed them in an inspiring manner before the combat began, and ordered them to harangue their men in a similar manner. The consequence was that the soldiers fought on this occasion with even more than their accustomed valour. Prince Charles was completely defeated; 27,000 prisoners, 100 guns, and 50 stand of colours fell into the hands of the victors. The Austrians on this occasion were about 60,000, and the Prussians 30,000 in number. The engagement is sometimes called the battle of *Lissa*, instead of Leuthen. Breslau was retaken, and Silesia recovered.

Frederick was now able to repose after his toils, and spent the winter quietly at Breslau. He proposed terms of peace to the Empress, which she scornfully rejected. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, the great English minister, procured Frederick a subsidy of nearly 700,000*l.* per annum, which enabled him to add largely to the number of his troops. Pitt moreover placed an army in Hanover, consisting of Eng-

the miserable remains of his shattered army, and lingered on the field so long that his officers asked, "Does your Majesty mean to storm the batteries alone?" At length he withdrew. He had lost 14,000 of his best troops, all his artillery and baggage, and (what was worse still in his position) the prestige which had hitherto always attended his arms was gone too. Never was a defeat more crushing; still Frederick did not despair. His officers found him melancholy and alone, listlessly drawing figures on the sand with a stick, on the evening of the dreadful reverse. "It has been a day of sorrow for us, my children," he said, when they told him that not a single grenadier of his magnificent guard remained alive, "but have patience; all will yet be well."

He was forced to raise the siege of Prague, and retreat from Bohemia. A few weeks later he sustained another severe blow. The Duke of Cumberland, defeated at Hastenbeck by the French, signed a humiliating treaty at Closter Severn on the 8th of September, by which he agreed to disband his troops. His father, George II., afterwards refused to ratify the compact; still, the French were for the time

at liberty to turn their arms against Frederick. To add to his embarrassment, an immense Russian army, under General Apraxin, defeated a Prussian force of 20,000 men under General Lewald at Gross Zagerndorf on the 30th of August, and soon spread over East Prussia, while Breslau was taken and Silesia occupied by the Austrians, and Berlin pillaged by the Croats.

Besides these public calamities, Frederick had to bear the loss of his brother and mother, who expired about this time; and he seems to have felt his mother's demise as deeply as he could feel any thing. All these troubles were not without their effect on his health; he grew so thin and haggard that the Saxons hardly recognized him when he appeared among them after his retreat from Bohemia. His sleep was disturbed, and irrepressible tears often filled his eyes. He even meditated suicide, and yet his devotion to the Muse was as great as ever. He still went on writing pages of indifferent verses, as if he had nothing else to occupy his mind.

In November, having re-organized his army, he made his appearance in the field, and en-

the miserable remains of his shattered army, and lingered on the field so long that his officers asked, "Does your Majesty mean to storm the batteries alone?" At length he withdrew. He had lost 14,000 of his best troops, all his artillery and baggage, and (what was worse still in his position) the prestige which had hitherto always attended his arms was gone too. Never was a defeat more crushing; still Frederick did not despair. His officers found him melancholy and alone, listlessly drawing figures on the sand with a stick, on the evening of the dreadful reverse. "It has been a day of sorrow for us, my children," he said, when they told him that not a single grenadier of his magnificent guard remained alive, "but have patience; all will yet be well."

He was forced to raise the siege of Prague, and retreat from Bohemia. A few weeks later he sustained another severe blow. The Duke of Cumberland, defeated at Hastenbeck by the French, signed a humiliating treaty at Closter Severn on the 8th of September, by which he agreed to disband his troops. His father, George II., afterwards refused to ratify the compact; still, the French were for the time

at liberty to turn their arms against Frederick. To add to his embarrassment, an immense Russian army, under General Apraxin, defeated a Prussian force of 20,000 men under General Lewald at Gross Zagerndorf on the 30th of August, and soon spread over East Prussia, while Breslau was taken and Silesia occupied by the Austrians, and Berlin pillaged by the Croats.

Besides these public calamities, Frederick had to bear the loss of his brother and mother, who expired about this time; and he seems to have felt his mother's demise as deeply as he could feel any thing. All these troubles were not without their effect on his health; he grew so thin and haggard that the Saxons hardly recognized him when he appeared among them after his retreat from Bohemia. His sleep was disturbed, and irrepressible tears often filled his eyes. He even meditated suicide, and yet his devotion to the Muse was as great as ever. He still went on writing pages of indifferent verses, as if he had nothing else to occupy his mind.

In November, having re-organized his army, he made his appearance in the field, and en-

Austrians, having observed that his habit was to attack and defeat them separately, determined to combine their forces. Laudohn, the Austrian, and Soltikow, the Russian general accordingly effected a junction while Frederick was engaged with Daun in Bohemia. The King, on learning it, left his brother to keep Daun in check and hurried to Kunnersdorf, near Frankfort-on-Oder, where he attacked the Allies on the 12th of August. At first he was so successful that he ventured to send an express to Berlin to announce a complete victory ; but in the latter part of the day the scene changed, and Frederick suffered a disastrous and well-nigh fatal defeat, being himself almost made prisoner, and his army utterly routed. He passed the night on a heap of straw in a ruined farm-house at some distance from Kunnersdorf, in a very unenviable state of mind. But his courage did not fail him. Soltikow did not attempt to improve his victory, and Frederick, having raised an army of 30,000 men, was able to save Berlin for a time. Dresden, however, fell into the hands of the enemy, and two of his generals were defeated,

one of them being forced to surrender with 10,000 men at Maxen.

Fresh misfortunes befell him in 1760. Berlin was taken by the Russians and Austrians, but the Russian General, Tottleben, would not allow it to be pillaged. Breslau sustained a severe siege, but was nobly defended by General Tauenzien, till relieved by Frederick. On the 15th of August the King defeated Laudohn at Lignitz, and Daun, hearing of it, retired from Silesia to Saxony. Having materially strengthened his army there, he again advanced intending to unite with the Russians. Frederick, to prevent the execution of this project, attacked him at Torgau on the 3rd of November. Daun had taken up an excellent position; the battle raged during the whole day; great confusion prevailed; the Prussians fought with one another by mistake; and when night fell Frederick had failed to drive the Austrians from their stronghold. The carnage among his troops had been terrible; he himself, inured as he was to scenes of bloodshed, had frequently exclaimed to his aides-de-camp during the day, "What a dreadful cannonade! Did you ever

hear the like?" He was wounded and removed from the field to the church of Elsnig, a neighbouring village, where he passed the night in a state of great suspense. Towards morning General Ziethen rushed into his presence with the welcome intelligence that he had cut his way through the Austrians in the night, and that they were in full retreat. Frederick embraced Ziethen with rapture. The Prussian monarchy was saved. Thus closed the campaign of 1760.

Frederick's cause suffered injury this year by the death of George II. of England. This monarch was succeeded by his grandson, George III., whose favourite, Bute, soon contrived to turn Pitt out of office, and then withdrew the subsidy from Prussia.

In 1761 a large part of Silesia fell into the hands of Austria. The Russians occupied Pomerania; and Frederick, though defeated in no great battle, gradually lost ground. The want of the English subsidy was much felt; but its loss was counterbalanced the next year by the death of the Czarina Elizabeth. Her successor, Peter II., was a frantic admirer of Frederick, and at once reversing the policy of his empire,

sent 15,000 men to augment the Prussian army. This sudden transformation revived the King's hopes, which had fallen very low, and he reconquered Silesia. Before the end of the year (1762) Peter was dethroned and murdered, but his widow Catherine, who succeeded him, though she withdrew her troops from Frederick's command, maintained peace with him.

In 1763, England and France retired from the conflict and concluded the Peace of Paris, which left Austria and Prussia to finish the struggle single-handed. Austria was far stronger than Prussia, and had suffered infinitely less in the long war; but the Turks threatened the Empire, and Maria Theresa was obliged to give way. A treaty was signed at Hubertsburg, a palace in Saxony, on the 15th of February, 1763, which left the two powers in exactly the same position as before the war. Austria had gained nothing, Prussia had lost nothing, and both had suffered from the expense and havoc attendant on a long and sanguinary war.

Frederick had been absent from his capital, Berlin, six years. He now entered it in triumph with Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick at his side; the streets were splendidly illumi-

nated, and he was received by the populace with the utmost enthusiasm. Hard and immovable as his nature was, he was touched on this occasion, and replied to the cheers of his subjects by repeated cries of "Long live my children! Long live my dear people!"

Frederick had performed a wonderful feat ; he had preserved his kingdom almost single-handed against the combined power of Austria, France, Russia and Sweden, in a struggle of seven years' duration. The only material aid he received was the subsidy from England and the diversion effected by the army under Prince Ferdinand in Northern Germany.

CHAPTER VII.

Frederick II. (*continued*).

1763—1786.

Frederick's Mode of Life—His Financial Policy—His Justice—Conferences with the Emperor of Germany—Laudohn—First Partition of Poland—War with Austria—Peace restored—Frederick's failing Health—His Death.

THE Seven Years' War proved that Frederick's military genius was of the highest order; the time had now come for him to display talents of a different kind, in repairing the ravages of war in his kingdom and restoring its ruined and starving inhabitants to prosperity. This arduous task Frederick in some degree fulfilled; but it must be confessed that he shone more at the head of his troops than at the head of the State. He seemed intended by nature for a general rather than for a statesman. Still he

performed the duties which devolved upon him with great care and considerable ability.

He was fully occupied ; for he continued his practice of attending to every thing himself, from state affairs of the highest importance to the arrangements of the Opera-house at Berlin ; and his literary and musical pursuits took up part of his time. He passed his days at Sans Souci or Potsdam in the following manner :—He rose at three or four in summer, and an hour later in winter. A very short time sufficed him for his ablutions, which he not unfrequently omitted altogether. While engaged with his barber, he opened his letters. Frederick made it a rule never himself to open a letter from any person not of noble family ; all petitions, therefore, from the middle and lower classes were read by a Secretary and reported to him. When he had concluded his dressing operations (which included putting on his hat, which he almost always wore, indoors as well as out, except at dinner), he received the Cabinet Secretaries, and heard their account of the letters they had inspected. He next had an interview with the Adjutant-General, with whom he transacted all business relating to

the army. On his departure Frederick drank some glasses of cold water flavoured with fennel, and began to answer his letters and look over the reports of his Ministers, sipping coffee at intervals, and sometimes eating fruit, often stone fruit, to which he was particularly partial.

He next indulged himself with half an hour's performance on the flute. Afterwards he received his Secretaries separately, and gave them his orders for the day. It was one of Frederick's peculiarities never to see his Cabinet Ministers, except on rare occasions; he always received their reports and conveyed his instructions to them in writing. The Secretaries were dismissed at ten, and Frederick employed himself in various ways till dinner. Sometimes he reviewed his Guards, sometimes granted audiences (at which he treated all persons not of noble rank with great *hauteur*), and sometimes walked or rode out. At twelve his Majesty always dined. He was a great epicure, but drank very moderately. Eel-pie was one of his favourite dishes. He usually had a few guests, seldom more than ten, to dine with him. Persons of different ranks were invited,

and all treated alike; but, as his favourite amusement was to sting the pride and hurt the feelings of his visitors by spiteful remarks and witty sarcasms, it was an honour not unmixed with annoyance to appear at the King's table. Occasionally dinner was prolonged till four in the afternoon, but this rarely happened. Frederick played the flute for another half-hour as soon as the meal was over, after which the Secretaries brought him the letters he had to sign. Sometimes his Majesty added a postscript; as, for instance, when a celebrated singer at the Opera sent a long expostulation against some alterations at the theatre, Frederick wrote at the end of the answer, "She is paid for singing, and not for scribbling." When the letters were signed, the King took a walk. From four to six, whenever he could possibly secure the time, he occupied himself with his literary affairs: nearly all his published works were composed in these hours. In the evening he entertained some of his greatest generals, and other distinguished men. When they were gone, or when there were no visitors, Frederick employed persons to read aloud to him in French. At nine he retired to rest.

The King spent Sunday exactly as other days. He was in the habit of making annual tours through his dominions to see if the improvements he had ordered were being properly carried out, and to inspect for himself the general condition of the country. He also held grand reviews several times a year.

The King's extreme economy, though it often led to laughable occurrences, and occasionally to serious sufferings on the part of his servants, was in a manner forced on him, for he was obliged to keep up a very expensive military establishment with a very small revenue. His dress was always shabby, his uniforms faded and patched, and his boots brown with age. At table he never allowed a bottle of champagne to be opened without his express permission. He was, nevertheless, rather extravagant in the culinary department. He particularly liked cherries, and actually gave two dollars apiece for them in the winter! In building, too, he spent enormous sums. He was fond of erecting new palaces, and embellishing the old. He also built many libraries, schools and theatres for the benefit of his subjects, and some churches, including the Cathedral of Berlin, besides re-


storing whole towns and villages which had lain in ruins for years.

Frederick was a great protectionist. Coffee, tobacco, and salt were Government monopolies, and very heavy taxes were laid on meat and other articles of food. The duty on coffee, which made it very dear, rendered Frederick somewhat unpopular; and it was evaded to so great an extent that he was obliged to lower it one-half. He strongly objected to the common people's drinking coffee. "It is quite horrible," he says, "how far the consumption of coffee goes. The reason is, that every peasant and common fellow is accustoming himself to the use of coffee, as being now so easily procurable in the open country. If this be a little bit checked, the people must take again to beer, and that is surely for the good of their own breweries, as more beer would then be sold. Here, then, is the object—that so much money may not go to foreign parts for coffee. . . . Besides, his Majesty's own royal person was reared in childhood on beer-soups, and why not, then, just as well the people down yonder? It is much wholesomer than coffee."

One day, when Frederick was out riding, he

observed a crowd of people looking at something stuck on a wall high above their heads. Upon examination, he found it was a caricature of himself as a coffee-grinder, with a coffee-mill between his legs, and the words "Old Fritz the grinder" written under it. He laughed, and good-naturedly ordered it to be moved lower down, where it could be seen better. The people cheered him enthusiastically, and tore the placard to pieces.

Frederick made the export of wool a capital offence. He also continued in force a curious law of his father's, which forbade all manufacturers except smiths, wheelwrights, masons, weavers, tailors, and carpenters, to carry on their trades any where but in towns. Frederick introduced a law which compelled all his poor subjects to send their children to the Government schools; but it is to be feared the instruction there obtained was somewhat defective, for the office of schoolmaster was so badly paid that it was principally filled by poor tailors, till the King hit upon the expedient of providing for his old and disabled soldiers by committing to them the education of the rising generation. The result of this arrangement




was, that in many schools the new master knew decidedly less than his pupils.

The King was extremely solicitous that the laws should be justly administered, and took considerable pains to redress injustice, when he discovered that it had been perpetrated. He punished the judges if he found they had favoured the rich or noble, and injured the poor. Once, when he was persuaded that a miller named Arnold had been wronged by a nobleman, he reversed the decree of the judges, put the Chancellor in disgrace, and imprisoned the judges. It afterwards turned out that the miller was a villain, and the unfortunate judges were in the right; which shows how undesirable it is for a monarch to have the power of interfering with the regular and legal administration of justice.

A mill stood near Sans Souci, which interrupted the King's view. He wanted to buy it of the owner, but the miller refused his offer. Frederick then threatened to take it by force, but the miller replied that he should sue the King in his own newly-established court of justice, if he did so; and Frederick in consequence forbore. Another version of the story

is, that Frederick actually seized the property, and restored it in obedience to the court. In either case he showed a praiseworthy deference to the law which absolute monarchs do not always display. Frederick, however, showed himself lamentably regardless of justice in the transaction we are about to relate. In 1769 he held a conference with Joseph, Emperor of Germany (son of Maria Theresa, who still lived, but delegated the government to her son and the able minister Kaunitz), in order to form an alliance between Austria and Prussia. Joseph agreed with Frederick that the Austrian and French alliance was a mistake, and contrary to the true interests of Germany; but after exchanging many friendly professions, the rival Sovereigns parted without coming to any agreement. A second conference the next year had the same result, owing to Frederick's distrust of Austria: it, however, afforded the King of Prussia an opportunity of paying Laudohn an elegant compliment. That officer was about to seat himself at the council table at the side facing the King, when Frederick, laying his hand on his shoulder, said, "Pray, sir, sit on *my* side; I do not like to have you *opposite*."



The Czarina Catherine was at this time fast reducing Poland to a province in the Russian Empire. Austria and Prussia both wished to prevent this; but Frederick perceived that if he sided with Austria, though he might succeed in hindering the advancement of Russian interests, he would at the same time forward those of Austria, and reap no benefit himself. An Austrian Princess had married the King of Poland, and the nobility of that country were to a great extent influenced by Austria. He determined, therefore, on consideration, rather to lean to the Russian side, and opened negotiations with St. Petersburg. Austria then had to consider whether it would be well to venture on war against the combined strength of Russia and Prussia: the question was decided in the negative in 1771, and from that time the partition of Poland became inevitable. Austria was the first to seize openly on a portion of the spoil. Catherine of Russia became jealous of the Emperor of Germany, and Frederick cleverly managed to make use of their disagreements for his own advantage.

In 1773, after much dispute and bargaining, Poland was divided among the three powers,

with the exception of a small portion which Stanislaus was permitted to retain as the nominal ruler. Russia took Lithuania; Austria, Galicia; and Prussia, the province now called West Prussia, Dantsic excepted, which, for commercial reasons, Catherine was unwilling to see in Frederick's hands. Thus the territory which the Hospitallers had forfeited to Poland upwards of 300 years before, became once more a part of Prussia.

The next event of importance which varied the monotony of Frederick's life was a brief and unimportant war with Austria. The Elector of Bavaria died without children in 1777, and his heir, Charles Theodore, a weak-minded man, was induced by the Emperor Joseph to cede the greater part of Bavaria to him. The Bavarians were indignant, and, rising in arms, appealed to the King of Prussia for aid. Frederick willingly granted it and invaded Bohemia at the head of his troops. A few skirmishes took place, but no battle was fought. Maria Theresa was timid, and kept secret negotiations on foot with Frederick all the time. France did not interfere, and Russia threatened to side with Prussia; consequently the campaign soon

came to an end, and the Treaty of Tetschen was signed on the 13th of May, 1779, which secured nearly all Bavaria to the Elector's next heir, the Duke of Zweibrücken. This war was jestingly entitled the "Potato War," because the soldiers on each side had nothing to do in camp but to roast and eat their potatoes.

In 1785 Joseph renewed negotiations with Charles Theodore and proposed to exchange the Austrian Netherlands for Bavaria. The project fell to the ground in consequence of a league formed by Saxony, Hanover, Brunswick, and Mecklenburg with Frederick of Prussia to prevent its execution. The formation of this alliance was the last important act of Frederick's reign. His health was failing rapidly; gout and other diseases, occasioned in part by his gluttony and other vices, were gradually wearing out his strength. He no doubt hastened his death, like Charles V. of Germany, by his obstinate disregard of the orders of his physicians, and persistence in eating favourite but unwholesome dishes, contrary to their advice.

In August, 1785, while he was holding his grand annual review, the weather turned wet

and he was recommended not to expose himself to it. He refused to take any precautions, and sat six hours on horseback in the pouring rain. The result was a violent attack of fever and ague, from which he indeed recovered, but remained subject to similar attacks ever after.

He became weaker and weaker, lay awake at night and slept in the day, was troubled by a constant cough and difficulty of breathing, and at last symptoms of dropsy appeared. Still he transacted his daily business as usual, and retained, in spite of suffering, his gay and lively spirits. When the Duke of Courland paid him a visit, Frederick asked if he wanted a good watchman, and proffered himself for the situation, as well qualified by his wakefulness at night. In June, 1786, the celebrated Zimmermann was sent for from Hanover; but Frederick paid no more attention to his dietary regulations than to those of his predecessors, and his prescriptions in consequence failed to take effect. *Polenta*, an Italian dish made of Parmesan cheese, Indian corn, juice of garlic, and butter, was his principal favourite, and nothing could induce him to forego indulging in it.

He rode out for the last time on the 4th of

July, when he was lifted into the saddle, and suffered from extreme exhaustion on his return home, after a very short gallop. He expressed no desire to see his relations during his long illness, but received his literary friends as usual in the evening, and conversed cheerfully with them on politics, literature, and other topics, avoiding all mention of his own ailments. The last books he read were Voltaire's "*Siècle de Louis XIV.*," and La Harpe's French translation of the Twelve Cæsars of Suetonius. Hopeless as his state had now become, Frederick continued as engrossed as ever in affairs of State, nor did his interest in culinary matters suffer any diminution. A bill of fare is still preserved which he corrected with his own hand (according to custom) within a fortnight of his death. He has scratched out the name of one dish and cook, and substituted for it the following words on the margin: "Gosset" (the name of another cook); "Filet de Poulets au Basilic, mais que la sauce ne soit pas trop épaisse."

On the 15th of August, Frederick slept till eleven in the morning, an unusual circumstance. He received his Secretaries and gave his orders as usual, and drew out a military plan with

perfect clearness. He ate half a lobster at dinner, the last food he swallowed, and in the afternoon fell into a sort of stupor, which lasted part of the night. The next day he made a vain effort to go through his ordinary duties. About seven in the evening he slept for a short time. As eleven o'clock struck, he asked the hour, and, on being told, said, "I shall rise at four o'clock." About midnight he noticed that his favourite dog had left its cushion by his side, and requested that it might be brought back. These were his last words; a rattling in the throat came on, and he expired at twenty minutes past two in the morning of the 17th of August, 1786, aged seventy-four years and six months.

Frederick died as he lived—an infidel. Not a word on religious subjects passed his lips as he approached death; he seemed entirely taken up with this life and utterly regardless of the future which lay before him. Once some pious persons, anxious for his conversion, sent him a religious letter. He handed it to his Secretary, and remarked that it was well-intentioned, and should be kindly answered, but the contents appeared to produce no impression on him.


His favourite Ziethen, who had not hesitated to rebuke him firmly, though respectfully, for a profane jest which his Majesty addressed to him at table on one occasion, had died in the preceding January, to the sincere regret of his master.

The excellent Queen, Elizabeth, was kept in ignorance of her husband's danger, and gave an afternoon party on the last day of his life; at which she received, among other guests, the afterwards celebrated Mirabeau, with whom she conversed (as appears from his works) on the happiness she had enjoyed during the first few years of her married life. Frederick had expressed a wish to be buried among his favourite dogs on the terrace of Sans Souci; but this desire was not complied with, and he was interred near his father in the garrison Church at Potsdam.

He had reigned forty-six years, twelve of which had been spent in war, and the remainder in tranquillity. He had raised his country to a high place among European nations, and considerably extended its boundaries. He was on the whole popular with his subjects, who were proud of his achievements. His disposition was

not altogether without good points, though decidedly unamiable. He abolished the use of torture in his dominions, and strongly disapproved of the slave-trade, which he called "a disgrace to human nature." He was utterly impervious to ridicule, except as an author, and the press was allowed unbounded liberty in Prussia during the whole of his reign. The most atrocious libels on the King were published and sold with impunity. Once, when a very scandalous production of the sort came out, the royal bookseller sent to his Majesty to know what he was to do. "Do not advertise it prominently," said Frederick, "but sell it by all means if asked for: I hope it will yield you a good profit." He used to say that he had come to an agreement with his people which pleased both: they *said* what they liked, and he *did* what he liked.

As Frederick was avowedly a disciple of Voltaire, it is not surprising to find him utterly indifferent to truth, good faith, and justice, when it suited his purpose to dispense with them. Having no principle but self-interest to guide him, he always acted as seemed most expedient at the time, whatever damage his con-



duct might inflict on others, or on his own reputation. His private morals are said to have been extremely depraved. His habits were somewhat eccentric, as we have already shown in the sketch of his daily life. He was very fond of horses and dogs; the former he used to name after distinguished ministers with whom he had been connected. Choiseul, Kaunitz, Pitt, and Bute were all to be found in his stables. Bute's end was melancholy: when the English minister after whom he was called withdrew the subsidy from Prussia, Frederick condemned the horse to descend from his high rank as the King's steed, and spend the rest of his days in drawing a cart. Condé was Frederick's last favourite; he used to feed him with his own hands during his fatal illness. The King was also fond of lap-dogs; he used to keep one favourite at a time, who sat on a cushion at his side during the day, and slept in his bed at night. A number of other little dogs were allowed to scamper about the royal apartment, as companions to the favourite. These dogs were sometimes driven out in a coach and six. When they died, they were buried on the terrace of Sans Souci, near their

master's favourite seat. Frederick was greatly addicted to snuff-taking, a habit one would think likely to injure his voice, which a contemporary describes as low and pleasing. Numerous anecdotes are told of this monarch, one of which we may insert here. He was informed that a young officer in his army, being too poor to afford to buy a watch, carried a musket-ball in his pocket, to which he attached an ornamental chain and seals. Frederick determined to humble and expose the officer's vanity, and accordingly asked him one day on parade before the whole staff what o'clock it was. The young man blushed, but with great presence of mind replied, as he drew the bullet from his pocket, "My watch, Sire, points but to one hour—that in which I am ready to die for your Majesty." The King was so pleased with the answer that he presented his own watch, which was richly set with diamonds, to the young officer.

Frederick tolerated all religions but the Jewish. Why the Jews were excluded from the privileges so freely bestowed on others, does not appear. When the Jesuits were banished from all the Roman Catholic countries, and even from Rome itself, they found a refuge in Protes-

tant Prussia. At the same time, Protestant refugees were welcomed, and Infidels were the king's chosen companions.

At his death Frederick left 10,000,000*l.* in the treasury, no debt, and an army of 200,000 men. He had no children, and was succeeded by his nephew, the son of his brother William.

CHAPTER VIII.

Frederick William II.

1786—1797.

Frederick William's Extravagance—Campaign in Holland—French Revolution—War with France—Invasion of France—Valmy—Evacuation of France—War carried on in Germany—Retirement of the Duke of Brunswick—Treaty of Bâle—Death of Frederick William.

FREDERICK WILLIAM was very unlike his uncle. He was not particularly clever, and his habits were luxurious, dissipated, and extravagant. He dismissed Hertzberg and Goertz, the able ministers of Frederick the Great, and entrusted the Government to his favourites Wöllner, Bischofswerder, Luchesini, and Lombard; while the influence of two abandoned women, Madame Rietz and Madame Von Voss, whom he enno-

bled by the titles of Countess Lichtenau and Countess Ingelheim, ruled supreme over all. The treasures Frederick had so carefully amassed were soon lavished, and a heavy debt incurred. The nobles were disgusted by the introduction into the peerage of low persons who happened to contribute to the king's pleasure; and the Court was so changed, that one of Frederick's old Generals would not have recognised it.

In 1787 the Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of Holland, who had married Wilhelmina, Frederick William's sister, was driven from power by a rebellion, and taking refuge in the fortress of Nimeguen, appealed for aid to his brother-in-law. Frederick William hesitated at first, but when his sister was arrested by the rebel soldiers, kept some hours in custody, and insulted by the presence of a common soldier in her room, who drank and smoked before her, he made up his mind to go to war. Ferdinand of Brunswick, Generalissimo of the Prussian forces, was ordered to invade Holland and restore the Prince and Princess to their throne. A faction only, supported by the French, had opposed the Orange family; it was soon put down by Ferdinand, the country tranquillized, and the Prince

restored. The first campaign of Frederick William's reign thus proved successful.


In 1789 the French Revolution broke out. Frederick William dreaded lest the principles of its promoters and partisans should spread in his dominions, and strove to prevent it by issuing severe and arbitrary edicts against the favourers of the new ideas; but, as he failed to put them into execution, they had little effect. The French emigrants flocked in crowds to Prussia, and were hospitably received. In 1791 the King held a conference at Pilnitz (in Saxony) with Leopold of Germany, and signed a treaty which bound Austria and Prussia to an alliance against the French Revolution. This league was disapproved by Hertzburg, who advised the King to unite rather with France against Austria; by Kaunitz, who recommended peace till France should have destroyed herself by her internal dissensions; and by Ferdinand of Brunswick, who had acquired enough military renown to satisfy his ambition, and feared to risk it in a new contest. These circumstances retarded the commencement of hostilities. Catherine II. of Russia, who was watching for a favourable opportunity to seize

on the small part of Poland which still remained independent, greatly wished for a war to engross the energies of Austria and Prussia, and keep them from interfering with her projects. She also very sincerely desired the suppression of revolutionary principles.

In April, 1792, France declared war against Austria and Prussia. In May, Catherine, finding a pretext in some recent changes in the constitution of Poland, marched a Russian army into that distracted country. Frederick William, hoping to share in the spoil, at once announced his disapproval of the reforms (which, it must be observed, he had himself suggested), and did all in his power to further the Czarina's schemes. In July he joined the allied army at Coblenz, which consisted in all of 113,000 men; viz. 50,000 Prussians, 45,000 Austrians, 12,000 French emigrants, and about 6000 Hessians. The Duke of Brunswick led this magnificent army across the Rhine. On commencing hostilities he published a manifesto (which in his heart he disapproved) written by Reufner, the Councillor of the Embassy at Berlin. It was couched in very violent terms, and threatened, unless the French at once returned

to their allegiance, to destroy Paris. It produced a deplorable effect; the French were infuriated instead of frightened, and at once took measures for defence. The Duke of Brunswick had remarked to his officers before starting, that the expedition would be a mere pleasure trip, and was not at all prepared for the strenuous resistance he encountered. At first, indeed, all went well. The Allies entered France by Champagne, and met with little opposition; but they advanced leisurely and made no use of their success. The fortress of Longwy was taken, August 23rd; Verdun, September 2nd; and nothing remained to hinder their immediate march to Paris but 25,000 men under Dumourier at the forest of Argonne, through which their road lay. Had they hastened their movements a little, even this obstacle would not have presented itself; but Brunswick's unaccountable delays ruined his cause. Dumourier had time to make his preparations and take up a strong position, where he was joined by Kellerman and Beurnonville, who increased his force to 70,000 men.

An engagement took place at Valmy on the 20th of September; it was, however, nothing



more than a cannonade; for Brunswick, though the explosion of a powder-mill threw the French into some disorder and gave the Allies a most favourable opportunity for an attack, would not lead his men into action, to the extreme indignation of Frederick William, who had given the order to charge. The result of this battle was doubtful; but the French, who had expected defeat, were not only satisfied, but delighted; while the Allies were rather depressed. All this time Dumourier had been carrying on secret negotiations with Brunswick, which had delayed his advance and paralyzed his arms. The Duke now wished to make terms, but the King of Prussia, urged by the emigrants, refused and insisted on prosecuting the war. News reached the camp of the proclamation of the Republic, on the receipt of which intelligence Frederick William determined to give battle to Dumourier on the 29th of September; but information of the refusal of England and Holland to join the coalition against France arriving before that day, and the Countess Lichtenau having been bribed to use her influence in favour of peace, he was induced to reverse his policy. An armistice was signed

on the 29th, in which it was stipulated that the Allies should quit France at once and, in consideration of their evacuating the fortresses they had taken, should not be harassed during their retreat. The army started on the 30th of September and retired in perfect order; but diminished by disease and having accomplished literally nothing.

Dumourier next invaded Belgium and defeated the Austrians under the Archduke Albert at Jemappes (near Mons) on the 6th of November. This victory was followed by the subjugation of nearly all the Low Countries. The French, under General Custine, had meanwhile taken Frankfort and established themselves on the Rhine; but in the beginning of December, Frederick William, having raised his army to 50,000 men, drove them from their position and recovered Frankfort. The soldiers on both sides then went into winter quarters.

In the beginning of 1793 took place the second partition of Poland, which added Dantzic, Thorn and the province of South Prussia to Frederick William's dominions. Meanwhile, Mayence was besieged by the Duke of Brunswick; it was taken in the summer. This

success was followed by a victory over Moreau at Pirmasens on the 14th of September, after which Frederick William, who had quarrelled with the Austrians, quitted the army (which he suffered to remain inactive), and went to visit his newly-acquired Polish territories. In November, the Duke of Brunswick was forced to engage in battle with Hoche, whom he defeated at Kaiserslautern. Wurmser, the Austrian general, then joined his to the Prussian forces, but jealousies and dissensions of all kinds ensued. The Allies were defeated at Wörth and Froschweiler, the two commanders throwing the blame on each other. Brunswick and Wurmser then parted, and retreated separately. The former soon afterwards resigned his command to Möllendorf. This general, in 1794, suddenly recrossed the Rhine, and won a victory at Kaiserslautern, but was obliged by a repulse at Trippstadt to retreat across the Rhine in July. He returned in September, and gained some advantages, but was finally forced by the junction of Hoche and Jourdain to retreat.

In 1794, the celebrated Kosciusko raised a rebellion in Poland. The King, Frederick William, immediately marched at the head of

his troops to engage the patriots, whom he defeated at Szczekociny, but subsequently found it necessary to retreat. Suwarrow then entered Poland with a Russian army, took Warsaw, and defeated the gallant Kosciusko, whom he carried prisoner to Russia. The next year Poland was partitioned afresh among its powerful neighbours. Prussia took all the country west of the Riemien, including Warsaw, the capital; the rest was divided between Russia and Austria. This was the *third* and *last* partition of Poland; it took place in 1795.

In August, 1794, Robespierre was sent to the guillotine, and a more moderate Government coming into power, Frederick William seized the opportunity to commence negotiations, which culminated in the Treaty of Bâle, signed April 5th, 1795, in which Prussia ceded to France the Rhenish provinces, secretly stipulating that she should be permitted to indemnify herself at the expense of the small German States. In the Treaty of Campo Formio, however, which Napoleon Bonaparte concluded on behalf of France with Austria in 1797, it was secretly agreed that Prussia should not be granted any equivalent for her lost provinces. Nevertheless,

Frederick William, in the summer of this year, seized Nuremberg, and extended his possessions in Westphalia, the Diet remonstrating in vain.

On the 16th of November, Frederick William II. expired; his last act was to make Haugwitz a Knight of the Black Eagle. He left a debt of 28,000,000 dollars and an empty exchequer to his son.

CHAPTER IX.

Frederick William III.

1797—1807.

Frederick William's Disposition—Queen Louisa—Hostile Feeling to France—Visit of the Czar—Secret Treaty with Russia—Change of Policy—Frederick William receives Hanover from Napoleon—War with Napoleon—Double Defeat at Auerstadt and Jena—Entire Conquest of Prussia by the French—Death of the Duke of Brunswick—Battles of Eylau and Friedland—Peace of Tilsit.

FREDERICK WILLIAM was twenty-seven years of age when he ascended his father's throne. He had married, about four years previously, Louisa of Mecklenburg, a virtuous and beautiful princess, to whom he was warmly attached. He was strictly moral and very simple and unostentatious in his habits; he therefore soon

effected a reformation in his father's dissolute Court. He particularly disliked formality and etiquette, as the following anecdotes show. When Crown Prince he had to contend with a precise lady-in-waiting, the Countess Vosse, who wished him never to visit the Princess his wife without first demanding leave in the approved and orthodox form. One day he was on the way to Louisa's boudoir, when the Countess met him. She expostulated, and to her great delight he gave her permission to announce to "Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince desired to speak with her." The lady hastened to fulfil her agreeable mission; but what was her amazement, on opening the door, to see her master already seated by the Princess on the sofa, with his arm round her waist. Louisa burst into fits of laughter at the puzzled and chagrined expression of the Countess. The Prince, who had arrived at the boudoir by a nearer and more private entrance, good-humouredly told the Countess that she was an excellent Mistress of the Ceremonies, and ought to be called "Notre Dame d'Etiquette," but assured her she must make up her mind to allow him

unrestricted intercourse with the Princess. The Countess with a sigh submitted; but when Frederick William became King, she determined to make a great effort to have matters arranged in a proper manner at the first reception their Majesties held. She assured the royal pair that it was indispensably necessary that they should drive to and from the reception in the state coach drawn by eight horses, as was customary. The King smiled, and told her to see that it was ready at the right time. When all was prepared for starting, Frederick William handed the Countess, who was too much astounded to resist, into the state coach, and ordered the coachman to drive on, he himself following with the Queen in an ordinary open carriage, amidst the laughter and cheers of the people.

The King's character seemed to promise a reign very unlike that which had just come to an end. His first act was to arrest and try the Countess Lichtenau; some of the Crown jewels were found in her possession, and she was compelled to relinquish a part of her ill-gotten wealth. Frederick William next proceeded to abolish the tobacco monopoly, which

had rendered his father unpopular. He, however, entertained so low an opinion of his own abilities that he placed himself almost entirely under the guidance of Haugwitz, the late king's favourite minister. By his advice he maintained the alliance with France, and remained neutral during the war between France and Austria which broke out in 1799, refusing to join the coalition formed by Austria and Russia with England.

Napoleon, who became First Consul in December, 1799, affected great friendliness towards Russia. His victory over the Austrians at Marengo in 1800 led to the Peace of Luneville between Austria and France, in February, 1801, which was followed in 1802 by the Peace of Amiens between England and France. The suspension of hostilities lasted but a year; Napoleon seized Hanover, and a new coalition was formed by England, Russia, and Sweden, which Austria was induced to join, partly by a large subsidy, and partly by the arrogant conduct of Napoleon, who had assumed the title of Emperor, and had himself crowned with the iron crown of Lombardy. It was of the greatest importance to Napoleon at this jun-

ture to secure the neutrality of Prussia, and he tried to ensure it by vague promises with regard to Hanover, of which he had just taken possession. At this time, however, Haugwitz was meditating a retreat from public life, and Prince Hardenburg, who advocated an anti-French policy, began to take the lead. The Queen also was a warm partisan of the Austrian side, and the Allies spared no efforts to obtain the adhesion of Prussia to the coalition. Napoleon, moreover, excited a strong feeling of resentment against him in the Prussian Cabinet by the following actions. He arrested an English Minister, Sir G. Rumbold, at Hamburg, which was under Prussian protection, and ordered Bernadotte to violate the Prussian territory by marching his troops across a part of it without permission.

Queen Louisa, Prince Louis, and Hardenburg, were all justly indignant, and their anger was stimulated by a visit from Alexander, the young Emperor of Russia, who came to Berlin in hopes of inducing them to declare war on Napoleon, who had proved an ungrateful and faithless ally. A secret treaty between Russia and Prussia was actually signed, and the alliance cemented by a

midnight visit to the tomb of Frederick the Great at Potsdam, when Alexander and Frederick William, laying their hands on the tomb, solemnly swore friendship to each other. This scene took place on the 4th of November, 1805. Alexander left Prussia the next day, to put himself at the head of his troops, and the enthusiasm which he had inspired seemed to go with him. The Prussian Government waited to see what turn things would take before commencing hostilities; at last Haugwitz was despatched to Napoleon with the ultimatum agreed on by the two monarchs at Potsdam. It required him to relinquish all conquests made after the Treaty of Luneville, and stipulated that the kingdom of Italy should never be held by the Emperor of the French.

The Ambassador reached the French camp the day before the battle of Austerlitz, and prudently deferred the execution of his mission till that conflict was over. Austria, being completely defeated, made peace; Alexander retreated, but sent to Frederick William, offering to place the forces of Russia at his disposal, if he would prosecute the war with vigour. This offer was made in vain; the selfish counsels of

Haugwitz prevailed. That diplomatist, when admitted into Napoleon's presence, had the audacity to congratulate him on his victory, and proposed a treaty which should ensure the annexation of Hanover to Prussia. Napoleon, who was perfectly aware of the convention with Russia, and all the other hostile steps Prussia had of late taken, went into a rage. "Sir," he said, "you were charged with your Master's congratulations on a victory, but fortune has changed their address." He added that Prussia would be rightly served if he fell upon it and destroyed it at once, but concluded by offering to give Frederick William Hanover in exchange for Cleves, Neufchâtel, and Anspach, on condition that Prussia entered into a firm and thorough alliance with France, and abandoned all connexion with Russia. Haugwitz, who always favoured the French alliance, gladly accepted these terms and signed a treaty to that effect on the 15th of December.

The Queen, Hardenburg and the war party generally were very angry when they heard of this treaty; but Frederick William yielded as usual to Haugwitz, and it was confirmed at Berlin, with a proviso that Napoleon should

obtain Hanover from England for Prussia at the first general peace, and till then the occupation of it should be considered merely provisional. Napoleon, however, refused to accept this additional clause, and Hanover was consequently openly annexed to Prussia in April, 1806, and the British flag, according to French orders, banished from its ports. England of course recalled her ambassador from Berlin, swept Frederick William's navy from the ocean, and declared the Prussian ports in a state of blockade.

Prussia thus found herself exposed to the enmity of the Allies, without having any real safeguard in the friendship of France. Napoleon was only waiting for a convenient time to take revenge for the Russian convention, and had given the King Hanover for the express purpose of embroiling him with George III. of England. Mr. Pitt had died in January, 1806; and the Tories, thus unexpectedly deprived of their great leader, retired from office and were succeeded by Mr. Fox and the Whigs, who endeavoured to bring about a peace with Bonaparte. Negotiations were opened: the restitution of Hanover was of course one of the first

points discussed, and Napoleon, utterly disregarding the claims of his ally Frederick William, expressed perfect willingness to consent to it, if other matters could be satisfactorily arranged. The Prussian Government was not even informed of this, but learned it afterwards from England, when the negotiations had been broken off.

The discovery of course excited lively indignation in every Prussian heart, and a second act of French treachery raised the national irritation to such a height that war was the result. In September, 1806, Napoleon united all the southern States of Germany into a league called "The Confederation of the Rhine," and declared them severed for ever from the German Empire, and placed under the protection of France. Frederick William, viewing this combination with dread, proposed to form a similar one, consisting of the northern States, under the protection of Prussia. Napoleon promised not to interfere with this scheme, but nevertheless, with his usual bad faith, rendered it abortive by persuading Saxony and other of the States to refuse to become members of the confederation.

This conduct was too much even for the

patience of Frederick William, and an ultimatum was at once sent to Napoleon, requiring the withdrawal of the French troops behind the Rhine, and demanding that no obstacles should be put in the way of the North German Confederation. These demands met, of course, with a decided refusal from Napoleon, and war commenced immediately. England, on learning the sudden change in Frederick William's policy, raised the blockade of his harbours, and sent back her ambassador. Alexander of Russia announced that he was on his way to the king's assistance with 70,000 men. Great efforts were made to induce Austria to join the Allies, but the Emperor distrusted Prussia; besides which, Austerlitz and Ulm were still fresh in his memory, so he determined to remain neutral. Saxony joined Prussia with 20,000 men.

The utmost enthusiasm was manifested in Prussia among officers, privates, and civilians. The beautiful Queen rode at the head of her own regiment, wearing its uniform; and expectations of speedy and complete success were universally entertained, although Napoleon's troops were more numerous than Frederick

William's, and some time would necessarily elapse before Russian aid would be available. The Prussian army was divided into three parts. The centre was commanded by the King and the Duke of Brunswick, the right wing by General Ruchel, and the left by Prince Hohenlohe and the young Prince Louis. Napoleon led his own forces, aided by Bernadotte, Davoust, Soult, Marmont, Murat, and others of those distinguished marshals whose names have become so familiar to Europe.

After some skirmishes, in which the French had the advantage, a battle took place at Saalfeld, on the 10th of October, between Prince Hohenlohe and the French left under Lannes and Augereau. The Prussians were forced to retreat, and Prince Louis was killed fighting bravely in the thickest of the engagement. His body fell into the hands of the French, who interred it with due honours at Saalfeld. Deep dejection now spread through the lines and took the place of the extravagant hilarity which had reigned previously. Prince Louis was generally beloved and esteemed, and his fall at the opening of hostilities seemed to damp the courage and lower the hopes of the whole

army, which was arranged after the disaster at Saalfeld in two bodies, one under the King and Brunswick at Weimer and the other under Prince Hohenlohe at Jena. The French advanced till they got between them and Prussia, and cut off their communications with it. At this juncture the Duke of Brunswick unwisely separated the two divisions of the army, which were within a league of each other. The main body, under the King and himself, marched on October 13th to Auerstadt, while Hohenlohe and the rest were left at Jena. The 14th of October witnessed a double contest. Napoleon attacked Prince Hohenlohe at Jena, opposed 90,000 men to his 40,000, and gained a complete victory, taking nearly all the artillery. At Auerstadt Davoust, with 30,000 men admirably commanded, defeated the King and Brunswick with 60,000. Brunswick was severely wounded, as were nearly all the principal officers; the Queen had fortunately left the army the night before: the King escaped with great difficulty to Sommerda. The Prussian cause was now desperate. Frederick William lost 40,000 men, including killed, wounded and prisoners, 200 guns and 25 standards on this

fatal day. He arrived on the 16th at Sonderhausen, and made Prince Hohenlohe Commander-in-Chief of the wreck of his fine army. He then hastened to Magdeburg.

On the 21st, Soult, after defeating a Prussian regiment at Greunen, arrived at the walls of Magdeburg. Bernadotte dispersed the Prussian reserve, under the Duke of Wurtemberg, at Halle on the 17th of October. All Saxony was occupied, Leipsic taken, and Berlin at the mercy of the conqueror. Prince Hohenlohe abandoned Magdeburg on the 22nd of October, and was forced to surrender to Lannes and Murat on the 28th at Prentzlow. Another Prussian division surrendered to Milhaud. Blucher fought his way to Lubeck, and defended it gallantly for a time, but was finally surrounded and made prisoner with his troops at Ratkau, on the borders of Denmark.

Napoleon had entered Berlin on the 27th of October, passing through Potsdam on the 26th. Magdeburg fell on the 8th of November, and the fortresses on the Weser shortly afterwards. Napoleon treated the Prussians with great severity. He made them pay 12,000,000*l.* towards the expenses of the war, carried off the sword

and other memorials of Frederick the Great from his tomb at Potsdam, permitted his officers to plunder without restriction, and insulted his prisoners.

The unfortunate Duke of Brunswick, who had been shot in both eyes at Auerstadt, besides receiving a severe wound in the breast, had been carried on a litter from the fatal field to his own palace at Brunswick, which he found empty and desolate. He thence addressed a pathetic appeal to Bonaparte to spare him and his insignificant little State. Napoleon refused his petition in such cruel and insulting terms, that the broken-hearted old man, fearing for his personal safety, fled to Denmark at the expense of intense suffering from his wound, and soon afterwards expired; his end being undoubtedly hastened by Napoleon's brutality.

The King and Queen of Prussia had taken refuge at St. Petersburg. Napoleon had still to encounter the Russian hosts and their gallant sovereign, and he hastened into Poland to meet them. A battle took place at Pultusk, December 26th, between the Russian General Benning-sen and Lannes, in which both sides claimed the victory; and another, the same day, at Goly-

min between Prince Gallitzin on one side, and Davoust and Augereau on the other, which was equally indecisive. Both armies then went into winter quarters. Meanwhile Jerome Bonaparte had conquered Silesia, and taken Breslau its capital.

On the 8th of February occurred the sanguinary battle of Eylau, between Benningsen and Napoleon. The victory was obstinately contested, and at last remained uncertain. Napoleon considered himself defeated, and was about to retreat, when Benningsen, who had suffered severely in the engagement, withdrew and left him master of the field. He was, however, too much weakened to advance, and sent proposals of peace to Frederick William, who was at Memel; but the King of Prussia could not abandon Russia at such a time, and, by the advice of Benningsen, rejected his overtures. He was consequently obliged to retreat. He soon, however, returned, and on the 14th of June the battle of Friedland was fought, when Benningsen was defeated. The Russians lost 17,000, and the French 10,000 men. Two days after this, Königsberg surrendered to Soult, the Prussian garrison having previously evacuated

and other memorials of Frederick the Great from his tomb at Potsdam, permitted his officers to plunder without restriction, and insulted his prisoners.

The unfortunate Duke of Brunswick, who had been shot in both eyes at Auerstadt, besides receiving a severe wound in the breast, had been carried on a litter from the fatal field to his own palace at Brunswick, which he found empty and desolate. He thence addressed a pathetic appeal to Bonaparte to spare him and his insignificant little State. Napoleon refused his petition in such cruel and insulting terms, that the broken-hearted old man, fearing for his personal safety, fled to Denmark at the expense of intense suffering from his wound, and soon afterwards expired ; his end being undoubtedly hastened by Napoleon's brutality.

The King and Queen of Prussia had taken refuge at St. Petersburg. Napoleon had still to encounter the Russian hosts and their gallant sovereign, and he hastened into Poland to meet them. A battle took place at Pultusk, December 26th, between the Russian General Benning-sen and Lannes, in which both sides claimed the victory ; and another, the same day, at Goly-

|

min between Prince Gallitzin on one side, and Davoust and Augereau on the other, which was equally indecisive. Both armies then went into winter quarters. Meanwhile Jerome Bonaparte had conquered Silesia, and taken Breslau its capital.

On the 8th of February occurred the sanguinary battle of Eylau, between Benningsen and Napoleon. The victory was obstinately contested, and at last remained uncertain. Napoleon considered himself defeated, and was about to retreat, when Benningsen, who had suffered severely in the engagement, withdrew and left him master of the field. He was, however, too much weakened to advance, and sent proposals of peace to Frederick William, who was at Memel; but the King of Prussia could not abandon Russia at such a time, and, by the advice of Benningsen, rejected his overtures. He was consequently obliged to retreat. He soon, however, returned, and on the 14th of June the battle of Friedland was fought, when Benningsen was defeated. The Russians lost 17,000, and the French 10,000 men. Two days after this, Königsberg surrendered to Soult, the Prussian garrison having previously evacuated

and other memorials of Frederick the Great from his tomb at Potsdam, permitted his officers to plunder without restriction, and insulted his prisoners.

The unfortunate Duke of Brunswick, who had been shot in both eyes at Auerstadt, besides receiving a severe wound in the breast, had been carried on a litter from the fatal field to his own palace at Brunswick, which he found empty and desolate. He thence addressed a pathetic appeal to Bonaparte to spare him and his insignificant little State. Napoleon refused his petition in such cruel and insulting terms, that the broken-hearted old man, fearing for his personal safety, fled to Denmark at the expense of intense suffering from his wound, and soon afterwards expired ; his end being undoubtedly hastened by Napoleon's brutality.

The King and Queen of Prussia had taken refuge at St. Petersburg. Napoleon had still to encounter the Russian hosts and their gallant sovereign, and he hastened into Poland to meet them. A battle took place at Pultusk, December 26th, between the Russian General Benning-sen and Lannes, in which both sides claimed the victory ; and another, the same day, at Goly-

min between Prince Gallitzin on one side, and Davoust and Augereau on the other, which was equally indecisive. Both armies then went into winter quarters. Meanwhile Jerome Bonaparte had conquered Silesia, and taken Breslau its capital.

On the 8th of February occurred the sanguinary battle of Eylau, between Benningsen and Napoleon. The victory was obstinately contested, and at last remained uncertain. Napoleon considered himself defeated, and was about to retreat, when Benningsen, who had suffered severely in the engagement, withdrew and left him master of the field. He was, however, too much weakened to advance, and sent proposals of peace to Frederick William, who was at Memel; but the King of Prussia could not abandon Russia at such a time, and, by the advice of Benningsen, rejected his overtures. He was consequently obliged to retreat. He soon, however, returned, and on the 14th of June the battle of Friedland was fought, when Benningsen was defeated. The Russians lost 17,000, and the French 10,000 men. Two days after this, Königsberg surrendered to Soult, the Prussian garrison having previously evacuated

and other memorials of Frederick the Great from his tomb at Potsdam, permitted his officers to plunder without restriction, and insulted his prisoners.

The unfortunate Duke of Brunswick, who had been shot in both eyes at Auerstadt, besides receiving a severe wound in the breast, had been carried on a litter from the fatal field to his own palace at Brunswick, which he found empty and desolate. He thence addressed a pathetic appeal to Bonaparte to spare him and his insignificant little State. Napoleon refused his petition in such cruel and insulting terms, that the broken-hearted old man, fearing for his personal safety, fled to Denmark at the expense of intense suffering from his wound, and soon afterwards expired ; his end being undoubtedly hastened by Napoleon's brutality.

The King and Queen of Prussia had taken refuge at St. Petersburg. Napoleon had still to encounter the Russian hosts and their gallant sovereign, and he hastened into Poland to meet them. A battle took place at Pultusk, December 26th, between the Russian General Benning-sen and Lannes, in which both sides claimed the victory ; and another, the same day, at Goly-

min between Prince Gallitzin on one side, and Davoust and Augereau on the other, which was equally indecisive. Both armies then went into winter quarters. Meanwhile Jerome Bonaparte had conquered Silesia, and taken Breslau its capital.

On the 8th of February occurred the sanguinary battle of Eylau, between Benningsen and Napoleon. The victory was obstinately contested, and at last remained uncertain. Napoleon considered himself defeated, and was about to retreat, when Benningsen, who had suffered severely in the engagement, withdrew and left him master of the field. He was, however, too much weakened to advance, and sent proposals of peace to Frederick William, who was at Memel; but the King of Prussia could not abandon Russia at such a time, and, by the advice of Benningsen, rejected his overtures. He was consequently obliged to retreat. He soon, however, returned, and on the 14th of June the battle of Friedland was fought, when Benningsen was defeated. The Russians lost 17,000, and the French 10,000 men. Two days after this, Königsberg surrendered to Soult, the Prussian garrison having previously evacuated

it, and joined the main body of the Russians at Wehlau, whence they retreated to Tilsit.

The Emperor Alexander then made proposals for an armistice, which Napoleon accepted. The two Emperors met on a raft on the Niemen, near Tilsit, when the King of Prussia was present at their conferences. The Queen also, the beautiful Louisa, used all her graces and fascinations in vain to soften the heart of Napoleon, and gain favourable terms for her country. He treated her with contemptuous indifference and little courtesy. But for Alexander, Frederick William would probably have retained no kingdom at all; as it was, all his territories to the east of the Elbe were restored, except Dantzic and the Polish provinces added to Prussia in 1792, which were formed into a duchy, and handed over to the King of Saxony. The Rhenish provinces, which Frederick William had before ceded to France in exchange for Hanover, were now turned into the Kingdom of Westphalia, and bestowed on Jerome Bonaparte. The King of Saxony was to have the right to a free military road through Prussia, to connect his ancient electorate with his newly acquired dominions. Frederick William was forced to

abandon his provinces west of the Elbe to Napoleon, to close his harbours against English ships, to keep his army down to 42,000 men, and to pay an immense war contribution.

The Queen made desperate but unavailing efforts to regain Magdeburg from Napoleon. This humiliating treaty was signed on the 9th of July, 1807. Napoleon retained possession of the principal Prussian fortresses for several years, nominally to ensure the payment of the heavy tribute imposed, really to keep Prussia helpless and dependent.

it, and joined the main body of the Russians at Wehlau, whence they retreated to Tilsit.

The Emperor Alexander then made proposals for an armistice, which Napoleon accepted. The two Emperors met on a raft on the Niemen, near Tilsit, when the King of Prussia was present at their conferences. The Queen also, the beautiful Louisa, used all her graces and fascinations in vain to soften the heart of Napoleon, and gain favourable terms for her country. He treated her with contemptuous indifference and little courtesy. But for Alexander, Frederick William would probably have retained no kingdom at all; as it was, all his territories to the east of the Elbe were restored, except Dantzic and the Polish provinces added to Prussia in 1792, which were formed into a duchy, and handed over to the King of Saxony. The Rhenish provinces, which Frederick William had before ceded to France in exchange for Hanover, were now turned into the Kingdom of Westphalia, and bestowed on Jerome Bonaparte. The King of Saxony was to have the right to a free military road through Prussia, to connect his ancient electorate with his newly acquired dominions. Frederick William was forced to

abandon his provinces west of the Elbe to Napoleon, to close his harbours against English ships, to keep his army down to 42,000 men, and to pay an immense war contribution.

The Queen made desperate but unavailing efforts to regain Magdeburg from Napoleon. This humiliating treaty was signed on the 9th of July, 1807. Napoleon retained possession of the principal Prussian fortresses for several years, nominally to ensure the payment of the heavy tribute imposed, really to keep Prussia helpless and dependent.

CHAPTER X.

Frederick William III. (continued).

1807—1815.

Von Stein—The Tugendbund—Death of the Queen—Napoleon's Russian Expedition—War with France—Coalition against Napoleon—Battle of Lutzen—Battle of Bautzen—Defeat of Macdonald—Battle of Dresden—Retreat of the Allies—Battle of Leipsic—Invasion of French—Triumphal Entry of the Allies into Paris—Napoleon's Abdication—Congress of Vienna—Napoleon's Return from Elba—Waterloo—Second Entry of the Allies into Paris—European Peace.

FREDERICK WILLIAM'S position was now most melancholy ; but he bore his trials with patience and fortitude, and devoted himself earnestly to the improvement of his diminished realm. He was ably seconded in his civil reforms by

his Prime Minister, the Baron von Stein; or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the patriotic Von Stein was ably seconded by his royal master. Generals Gneisenau and Scharnhorst superintended the military improvements. The antiquated and inconvenient uniforms of the soldiers, which included powdered wigs and canes, was changed for one more suitable. The rule, always rigidly adhered to by Frederick the Great, that none but persons of noble birth should be eligible for officers, was abolished. On the other hand, nobles, who had before been forbidden to engage in commercial pursuits, were now permitted to act as they chose in the matter. The serfs were liberated, and privileges granted to the towns. Prussia was thus gradually prepared to assert her independence whenever a favourable opportunity arrived.

Von Stein, however, drew on himself the enmity of Napoleon by founding a secret society called the Tugendbund, or League of Virtue, the object of which was to rouse the Germans to a general and patriotic opposition to the French. All classes of the community—statesmen, officers, poets, and students—became mem-

bers of this society. Napoleon heard of it, and sent orders to Berlin for the dismissal and banishment of Von Stein, in December, 1808. Frederick William, who returned to his capital that month, having remained at Memel up to that time, was obliged to obey the French Emperor, and Von Stein was exiled; but his successors, Dohna and Hardenburg, carried out his schemes and followed in his steps. Hatred to the French became a strong and ruling principle in the hearts of the oppressed and insulted people, whose miserable condition the King did all in his power to ameliorate. The amiable Queen showed no less ardour in the prosecution of internal reforms than she had previously manifested in the war; but her heart was broken by the misfortunes of her country, the calumnies with which Napoleon had sought to sully her fair fame, and the death of a beloved child. She expired, in the prime of youth and beauty, on the 19th of July, 1810. She was deeply lamented, not only by her devoted husband, but by all her subjects, who loved, admired, and almost idolized her.

According to the Treaty of Tilsit, Frederick William could not raise an army of more than

42,000 men; but the population were drilled and instructed in the art of war a few thousand at a time. When a certain number of men became good soldiers, they were dismissed, and their place taken by recruits, who were taught and dismissed in like manner. Thus a large and efficient army could at any time be enrolled, if necessary.

Napoleon was getting rash and more than ever arrogant. He annexed Holland to France, arrested the Pope, married a daughter of the Emperor of Austria (having divorced Josephine to make way for her), and named the son he had by her the King of Rome. In 1812 he quarrelled with Alexander of Russia, who refused to abstain from commercial intercourse with England, as the haughty French Emperor required. Napoleon, accustomed to victory, determined to march into Russia, and treat Moscow like Vienna and Berlin. He collected a vast army, numbering about 500,000 men, for the enterprise. Twenty thousand of these were Prussians. Frederick William was not yet strong enough to resist Napoleon, who insisted on his signing a treaty which bound Prussia to aid France against Russia.

Before starting, Napoleon stopped a short time at Dresden, where he held a brilliant Court. The Emperor and Empress of Austria, and the widowed King of Prussia, went there to meet him. He treated Frederick William with cold civility. The year 1812 proved very disagreeable for Frederick William. Napoleon and his immense army crossed Prussia on their way to Russia, exhausting the last resources of the country; and as the fortresses were already in French hands, the King felt his defenceless condition more than ever. But the patriotic songs of Horner and Arndt, and the untiring efforts of Professors such as Jahn and Steffens, were not without effect. The day of vengeance for Prussia and retribution for France was nearer than it appeared.

The Russian invasion turned out a complete failure. The French were forced to retreat in the depth of winter, and less than twenty thousand of the half-million of men who had started with such proud hopes returned to their homes; the rest found a grave in the snows of Russia. The few that escaped took refuge in Dantzic and other Prussian fortresses. The contingent Prussia had furnished to the expedition, having

been engaged in the siege of Riga instead of marching to Moscow, was in a far better condition than the rest of the army; it was surrounded near Diebitch, and its commander, General Von York, capitulated with the Russians, or rather concluded a treaty of neutrality with the Czar, on the 30th of December, 1812.

The King disavowed this step of Von York's, and even deprived him of his command; for Berlin still remained in the hands of the French, and Prussia was yet at peace with France. In January, 1813, however he abandoned the capital, and retired to Breslau in Silesia. In March the approach of the Russians compelled the French, under Eugene Beurnharnais and Augereau, to quit Berlin and retire beyond the Elbe, thus freeing Prussia from their hated presence.

On the 1st of March, Frederick William, having concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with Russia, had an interview with the Czar at Kalisch. He then issued a spirited war proclamation, which was enthusiastically received by his subjects, who eagerly responded to his appeal for men and money. Ladies brought

their ornaments, and families their gold and silver plate, to the treasury, receiving facsimiles in iron, inscribed, "I gave gold for iron, 1813." Two hundred thousand men enlisted in an incredibly short time. The King, to stimulate this patriotic ardour, about this time instituted a new order, that of the Iron Cross. England sent supplies of arms and military stores, and promised a subsidy.

On the 17th of March the war against France, which Frederick William had proclaimed must end in "honourable peace or glorious destruction," was formally declared. Blucher, Gneisenau, Kleist, and Tauenzien, distinguished already by their detestation of the French yoke, took the lead in the army. Blucher, accompanied by the King, entered Saxony, and garrisoned Dresden on the 27th of March, the inhabitants welcoming them as deliverers. On the 5th of April, Wittgenstein, the Russian commander, defeated Eugene Beauharnais and forty thousand French, who were advancing on Berlin, thereby compelling them to retreat to Magdeburg. Napoleon hurried to the scene of action, and arrived at Erfurt on the 26th of April. On the 1st of May, Marshal Bessières

was killed in a skirmish. On the 2nd of May, the battle of Lutzen took place, in which the French gained the advantage, obliging Blucher to retreat; but the Prussian troops, though nearly all new soldiers, fought with the utmost intrepidity, taking some guns, while the French captured none. On the 5th there was an encounter at Koldisz between the Prussian rear-guard and the French van, in which the Prussians were victorious. The Allies passed Dresden, and took up a position at Bautzen, having been reinforced by eighty thousand Bavarians. Napoleon, who had also been reinforced, sent Lauristin and Ney to advance by different routes on Berlin; both, however, were intercepted and forced to retreat by Prussian generals.

Napoleon attacked the Allies at Bautzen on the 21st of May. A very bloody engagement ensued, Kleist repulsed the French, and Blucher, surrounded on three sides, defended himself with great skill and courage. Marshal Duroc was killed, and the French took neither guns nor prisoners; but the Allies were compelled to retreat. They retired slowly and in good order, destroying the French *avant-garde* which they

met in the way, and arriving safely at the fortress of Schweidnitz in Silesia, behind which they sought shelter. The French entered Silesia, and occupied Breslau. Napoleon demanded an armistice, which the Allies willingly accorded, as it gave them time to mature their plans and finish their arrangements. It commenced on the 4th of June, and was to last six weeks; it was afterwards prolonged to August 17th.

During this interval Austria, after long hesitation, determined to join the Allies; and on the 12th of August the Emperor Francis declared war against his son-in-law. Bernadotte, the Crown Prince of Sweden, had landed in Pomerania in May, and was aiding Bülow in the defence of Berlin. The Austrian army was commanded by Prince Schwarzenberg. When hostilities recommenced, the forces of the Allies were distributed and commanded in the following manner. Bernadotte and Bülow defended Berlin and Brandenburg, at the head of the Swedish and some Prussian troops. Blücher commanded the Prussian army in Silesia; but the grand army of the Allies lay in Bohemia, and was commanded by Prince Schwarzenberg. It consisted principally of Austrians, but inclu-

ded a Russian contingent under Wittgenstein, and some Prussians under Kleist. The Emperors of Russia and Austria and the King of Prussia accompanied this army.

Napoleon sent Oudinot to capture Berlin immediately after the resumption of hostilities. He arrived safely within two miles of the city, and his troops were boasting (having halted for the night) of the ease with which they had accomplished their task, considering their triumphal entry into Berlin the next day a certainty, when their cogitations were abruptly terminated by an attack from General Bülow at the head of a force far inferior to theirs. Taken by surprise, and attacked with fury, they became panic-stricken and fled, retreating in a disorderly manner to the Elbe.

Napoleon, hearing that the Allies were advancing towards Dresden, quitted Silesia for Saxony, leaving behind under Maedonald eighty thousand men, who were defeated with great slaughter by Blucher on the 28th of August. "Forwards!" shouted Blucher on this occasion, when leading his men to the charge, and "Forwards!" from this day became the battle-cry of the Prussians—Blucher himself being

nicknamed Marshal Forwards. The Prussians captured 18,000 prisoners and forty guns. While this battle was going on, Napoleon was successfully combating the Allies at Dresden, and the next day (the 27th) he attacked them on a plain near Dresden, and defeated them with great loss. Moreau was mortally wounded while standing by the Emperor Alexander.

The Allies retreated to Bohemia, defeating and making prisoners Vandamme and 10,000 of his men in the pass of Culm, near Töplitz. Napoleon's joy at the victory of Dresden was damped by news of the disgraceful failure and flight of Oudinot. He sent Ney to retrieve the French honour, promising him—it is said—the Crown of Prussia, if he succeeded in taking Berlin. He, however, met with the same fate as Oudinot. Bülow and Tauenzien, at the head of 20,000 men, without Swedish aid, defeated Ney and his 70,000. A series of petty battles followed during this month, and all the French Generals were forced to retreat to Dresden. Napoleon left that city on the 7th of October, and retired to Leipsic, where on the 14th a skirmish took place between the French and Prussian cavalry, in which the latter were suc-

cessful. On the 16th the great battle of Leipsic began, the Allies having reached the spot where Napoleon awaited them. Towards the middle of the day the French Emperor, having got an advantage over a part of the Austrian army, ordered the bells to be rung in Leipsic and sent word to Paris that he had gained the victory; but Blucher some time afterwards defeated Marmont's division; so that when night separated the combatants the Allies were victorious.

On the 17th neither army fought. Napoleon sent overtures of peace to the Emperor Francis and offered to evacuate Germany; but no answer was returned to his communication. Bernadotte and Benningsen reinforced the Allies during the day. On the 18th the battle was renewed; the French fought bravely and Napoleon displayed his usual skill; but he had to contend with an enemy with twice his number of men, and the result was what might have been anticipated. The Saxon and Wurtemberg regiments went over to the Allies during the engagement and Napoleon was driven back to Leipsic. The next morning he renewed the struggle in order to cover his retreat, but the

destruction of the only bridge over the Elster, before all the French troops had crossed it, led to the death or captivity of the 25,000 left behind. Among the numerous prisoners was the King of Saxony. The loss on both sides was immense in this contest, which was called "The Battle of Nations," from the fact that troops from all parts of Europe were engaged in it. The Allies lost 47,000 killed and wounded: the French about 60,000.

Napoleon hastily retreated with the remainder of his troops, pursued by the Prussians, who overtook him at Freiburg on the Unstrutt, where the bridge broke, thousands of French perished, and Napoleon himself had a narrow escape from captivity. With about 70,000 men he continued his flight, cut his way through the Bavarian army under General Wrede on the 20th of October, and reached the Rhine, which he crossed in safety. The last French regiment reached Mayence on the 9th of November, and Germany as far as the Rhine was free. The towns and fortresses garrisoned by the French—Dresden, Dantzic, and Stettin among the number—fell one after another into the hands of the Allies. The Rhenish Confederation was dis-

solved, its members submitted to the Allies, and most of them were re-instated in their dominions.

Napoleon was deserted by Murat in Italy; Jerome Bonaparte fled from Westphalia; Holland rebelled and welcomed a Prussian army under Bülow, which cleared the country of the French. The Swiss permitted the Allies to pass through their territory without opposition. France was invaded on all sides in the beginning of 1814. Bülow entered on the north from Holland, Blucher and Schwarzenberg advanced across the eastern frontier, and Lord Wellington and the English passed the Pyrenees, and defeated Soult, forcing him to retreat step by step before them. Peace was offered Napoleon on condition of his being content with the territory included within the ancient boundaries of France; but he refused to relinquish his conquests, and the war continued.

On the 29th of January he defeated Blucher at Brienne and forced him to retreat; but the Prussian General returned reinforced on the 1st of February and vanquished Napoleon at La Rothière, taking seventy-three guns. He then advanced towards Paris, but was repulsed

with loss. Napoleon then won some slight victories over the Austrians and Russians at Mormant, Villeneuve, and Montereau on the 17th and 18th of February. The Allied Sovereigns consequently held a Council of War at Troyes, and resolved on retreat. Blucher, when informed of this determination, declined to obey the order, and, having formed a junction with Bülow, defeated Napoleon at Laon on the 9th of March. Schwarzenberg then halted, and an engagement took place between him and Napoleon on Arcis-sur-Aube on the 20th of March, in which neither side could claim the victory.

Napoleon then threw himself into Troyes in the rear of the Allies, hoping to cut off their communications and raise the people in his defence. But the people remained quiet, and the Allies united and marched rapidly to Paris, defeating Marmont and several other French generals who attempted to arrest their progress. On the 29th they arrived within sight of Paris, on the 30th they fought on the heights of Belleville and Montmartre, in the night the city surrendered, and on the 31st the Allied Sovereigns entered Paris in triumph. Napoleon returned, burning with rage and mortification, to Fon-

tainefbleau, too late to strike a blow for his capital. At Fontainebleau, deserted by nearly all his generals, who hastened to make terms with the conquerors, he was obliged to sign a treaty on the 16th of April, in which he resigned the French Crown with all its appurtenances, and consented to reside for the rest of his life at Elba, where he was to retain the title of Emperor.

Louis XVIII. was restored to the throne of his ancestors, and on the 30th of May, 1814, a general peace was concluded at Paris. France was reduced to its limits, of 1792, and thus permitted to retain Lorraine and Alsace, to the great indignation of Blucher. The bronze horses which Napoleon had carried off from the gates of Brandenburg were restored to their proper place, but the Allies did not interfere with the other stolen *chefs-d'œuvre* in painting and sculpture which crowded the galleries and museums of Paris. Prussia regained by this treaty all her provinces between the Elbe and the Rhine, and a portion of her Polish territories. In exchange for the remainder she received half the kingdom of Saxony, and her Rhenish provinces were to be enlarged.

In June the Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia, accompanied by Marshal Blucher, paid a visit to England, where they were received—Blucher especially—with great enthusiasm. Blucher was made a D.C.L. of Oxford University, on which he observed, “I hear they are going to make me a Doctor. If so, they should make Gneisenau an apothecary; for if I wrote the prescription, he made the pills.”

In the Autumn the Congress of Vienna met to settle the affairs of Europe. Alexander of Russia and Frederick William of Prussia were present in person, as were the majority of the German princes. Castlereagh represented England, Talleyrand France; while Metternich, the Austrian, and Hardenburg, the Prussian ministers, transacted business for their respective masters. Suddenly their deliberations were suspended by the escape of Napoleon from Elba, on the 26th of February, 1815. He landed at Cannes on the 1st of March, was joined by all the troops sent against him, including Ney, who had threatened to bring him prisoner to Paris in an iron cage. Louis XVIII. fled from France, Napoleon marched to Paris. The Allies were at first almost too startled to know what to

do, but soon recovering their self-possession, made preparations for his overthrow.

Blucher, with 117,000 men, was sent to Belgium; in June the Duke of Wellington, with 100,000 men, also repaired to that country. Napoleon marched to meet them. Determining to engage the English and Prussians separately, he first attacked the Prussians at Ligny, having disposed of Ney in such a manner as to hinder Wellington from sending him any reinforcements. Just before the battle began, General Bourmont went over to the Prussians. "Bah!" said Blucher, with great contempt, pointing to the white cockade the General had placed in his hat in lieu of the discarded tricolour. "It does not signify what colours a man shows: a scoundrel is always a scoundrel!" After five hours' hard fighting the Prussians were thrown into confusion. Blucher's horse was killed, and fell on him. It was some time before the Marshal, who in the interim had been ridden over more than once, could be extricated and carried to a place of safety. The fall had done him considerable injury, and put him to severe pain. In the midst of his suffering he observed that the surgeon in attendance was rubbing his

bruised limbs with liquid of some kind, and inquired what it was. "Brandy," replied the surgeon. "It's no use applying it *outwardly*," roared the Marshal; and seizing the bottle, he swallowed the contents, and ordered the surgeon out of his presence. The Prussians retreated in good order.

On the same day the Duke of Wellington and the Prince of Orange had been engaged with Ney at Quatre Bras, and in spite of the defection of the Belgians, who ran away in a body, defeated and obliged him to fall back. The Duke of Brunswick was killed at Quatre Bras. The Duke of Wellington then retired to the field of Waterloo, which he had chosen as his ground in the great contest which awaited him. The Prussians under Blucher were marching in the same direction, in order to join him.

On the 18th the battle began between Wellington and Napoleon; it raged all day, every attack of the French being repelled by the English, who held their ground firmly and showed no signs of exhaustion, when the French cavalry was annihilated, and the infantry—except the Old Guard which Napoleon had kept

in reserve—in very little better condition. At last the Emperor ordered the Guard to advance; the Duke met it at the head of the English Guards. A very brief contest ensued, and the Old Guard fled precipitately. Before this encounter commenced, Wellington had learned that Blucher was in sight with his Prussians; before it was over, the gallant old Marshal had already attacked the French rear. He had overcome almost insuperable difficulties in his march from Havre, for the road had been rendered unfit for the passage of artillery by the heavy rains. Once his men had exclaimed, “It’s no use saying ‘Forwards,’ Father Blucher: it won’t do; we *can’t* do it.”

“But it *must* do, my children,” replied Blucher. “It’s all very well to say it won’t do; but it *must* do. I have promised it to my brother Wellington, and you wouldn’t have me break my word!” He had the pleasure of arriving in time to take part in the conclusion of the battle. The French fled soon after his arrival. He met and congratulated Wellington at La Belle Alliance, where the Duke handed over the pursuit to him, and ordered the English to repose.

Blucher took Napoleon's carriage and baggage, and sent his star, sword, and hat to the King of Prussia. This was retribution for the robbery of Frederick the Great's tomb at Potsdam! Blucher wrote to his wife on the 19th, "My dear wife, you well know what I promised you, and I have kept my word. Superiority of numbers forced me to give way on the 17th, but on the 18th, in conjunction with my friend Wellington, I put an end at once to Bonaparte's dancing." Napoleon's power was indeed at an end for ever. Wellington and Blucher marched to Paris, which they entered on the 7th of July. On the 15th, Napoleon surrendered himself unconditionally to Captain Maitland of the "Bellerophon," and was transported to St. Helena, where he died in May, 1821.

Blucher wished to revenge the insults of the French, when in possession of Berlin, on the Parisians, but Wellington would not permit it. Blucher thought it would be desirable to destroy the Column of Victory in the Place Vendôme, and blow up the bridge of Jena. Talleyrand sent to expostulate on the latter subject, which led the Marshal to remark, "I shall blow up the bridge, and it would give me infinite plea-

|

sure if his Highness Prince Talleyrand were seated on it at the time." He had begun his preparations for this outrage, when the Duke of Wellington contrived to stop his proceedings.

A new treaty was concluded on the 20th of November, 1815, by which France was condemned to restore all the treasures of art Napoleon had abstracted to their rightful owners; to maintain a foreign army of a hundred and fifty thousand men in France for five years; to put the frontier fortresses in the hands of the Allies; and to pay seven hundred thousand francs towards the cost of the war. Prussia received by this treaty the Polish provinces of Posen, Swedish Pomerania, half Saxony, a great part of Westphalia, and the lower Rhine from Mentz to Aix-la-Chapelle. Prussia and Russia had allied themselves closely all through the proceedings of the Congress of Vienna, and at Paris, September 27th, a league was formed by Austria, Russia, and Prussia, called the *Holy Alliance*. The Treaty of Paris transformed Germany into a confederation. All the States were to send deputies to a Diet, which was to sit continually at Frankfort, presided over by

Austria. The larger States were to have a whole vote apiece, the more insignificant only a part. Austria and Prussia were thus left equal in power to guide the destinies of the German Empire.

CHAPTER XI.

Frederick William III. (continued).

1815—1840.

Discontent in the Rhenish Provinces—Petitions for a Constitution—Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle—Death of Blucher—Treaty with the Pope—Provincial Diets Instituted—Second Marriage of the King—Ecclesiastical Changes—The Zollverein Established—Disagreements with the Popish Archbishops—Illness of the King—Visit from the Czar—Frederick William's death.

THE peace established in 1815 endured to the end of Frederick William's reign, the remainder of which was marked by internal disputes only. Frederick William soon discovered that the patriotic feelings he had laboured to raise in his subjects, now that they were no longer exercised in the struggle for inde-

pendence, found vent in ardent aspirations after political reform. In 1815 he had announced his intention of forming provincial diets, from which members were to be selected for an Imperial Parliament or diet to meet at Berlin; but this promise was not fulfilled, and for two years nothing more was heard of the provincial diets.

In 1817, the fulfilment of the promise was demanded, though in vain, by the Rhenish provinces and Westphalia, which were in a very discontented state. They disliked the union with Prussia, objecting, as Papists, to be united to a Protestant kingdom, and also considered that their commerce was injuriously affected by their change of masters.

The students at the Universities in this year displayed strong revolutionary tendencies. On the 18th of October they had a meeting at the Wartburg to celebrate the third centenary of the Reformation, at which they hoisted the tri-colour and gave utterance to revolutionary sentiments. The Government did its utmost to check such demonstrations.

In 1818, the Allies held a congress at Aix-la-Chapelle, which Frederick William attended


in person; the principal business transacted was the withdrawal of the army of occupation from France, two years before the time fixed.

In 1819, Marshal Blucher died at his country-seat, to the great regret of his fellow-countrymen.

In January, 1820, a decree was issued, declaring the amount of the National Debt to be 26,263,375*l.*, and rendering future addition to it dependent on the will of the National Parliament, which had never yet been assembled.

In 1821, with a view of conciliating the Westphalians and the inhabitants of the Rhenish provinces, Baron Hardenburg made a treaty with the Pope, in virtue of which several new popish archbishoprics and bishoprics were created. Immediately after this affair was arranged, Prince Hardenburg died at Geneva, in the seventy-third year of his age.

In 1823, Frederick William partly redeemed his promise of a Constitution. By an edict dated June 5th, he instituted provincial diets; but, fearful of trusting the people with much power, introduced such restrictions as prevented



their encroaching in any degree on his royal prerogatives. The Imperial Parliament was not summoned to Berlin. The laws were improved and regulated, education enforced, the army put on a strong footing, and the revenue economized; for, though unwilling to do much *by* the people, the King was really desirous to do all he could *for* them. In this year the Crown Prince of Prussia married the Princess Elizabeth Louisa, daughter of Maximilian, King of Bavaria, and in 1824 the King excited considerable surprise by forming a morganatic alliance with the Countess von Harrach, a young lady of great beauty, amiability, and intelligence. A portion of his subjects were displeased at his choosing such a successor to the celebrated Louisa, whose memory was still fondly cherished by the people; but those who came in contact with the Countess learned to admire and esteem her, and wondered less at Frederick William's conduct.

In 1824 the King set to work to reconcile and unite the different religious sects in his dominions. The Rhenish provinces, Posen and part of Silesia, were Popish; the rest of the kingdom was for the most part Lutheran; but

the King and royal family, together with a considerable number of the people, were Calvinists. The Protestants were in a majority, but their divisions hindered them in opposing Popery, which, tolerated and even patronized by the Government, was making progress. Frederick William brought about the union of the Lutheran and Calvinist Churches, and issued a new Liturgy, which gradually came into general use. The religious state of the country at this time was very unsatisfactory, for Rationalism, or Infidelity, was spreading extensively in the Universities and among the Protestant Clergy, although opposed by the *Supernaturalists*, as the orthodox party were called.

In 1825, Frederick William paid a visit to Belgium to see his son-in-law, Prince Frederick of Orange.

In 1830 the Revolution which placed Louis Philippe on the French throne roused the fears of the Prussian Government, and produced a slight agitation in the breasts of the people; but the year passed over without any disturbance.

In 1831 the Cholera, which spread from Poland to Prussia, proved fatal to the lives of 30,000 persons, among whom was Marshal

Gneisenau, the last surviving representative of the days of Frederick the Great. •

In 1833 the Zollverein, or Customs Union, was established. Frederick William had been occupied in arranging it from 1826. It was a commercial league formed by the principal States of Germany, and headed by Prussia, Austria keeping aloof. It introduced a uniform currency and rate of duties, and provided that Prussia should collect the duties and distribute them to the different States in proportion to their populations. This commercial confederation added as much to the influence of Prussia in the Empire as it diminished that of Austria.

In 1834 a discontented spirit was manifested in various parts of the country, especially in Posen and the Rhenish provinces. Some of the provincial diets carried addresses hostile to the Government, which, however, produced no effect whatever.

In 1835 new troubles arose. Frederick William had passed a law in 1825, enjoining that in mixed marriages the children should always be educated in the religion of the father, and then did all in his power to encourage the Protestant young men to marry Popish wives,

hoping thus gradually to undermine Popery in his dominions. The Popish priests were extremely angry, and complained to the Pope, who issued a temporizing bull, which the King interpreted as favourable to his views, and prevailed on the Archbishop of Cologne to take the same view of it. All consequently went on quietly till the death of the Archbishop, in 1835.

His successor professed to agree with the King before his appointment, but afterwards, like Thomas-à-Becket, turned completely round, and ordered his clergy to refuse to celebrate mixed marriages, unless a promise was given to educate the children as Papists, whatever the faith of the father might be. Frederick William was very indignant, and when the Archbishop definitively refused to withdraw his opposition to the law, in 1837 deprived him of the Archbishopric, and imprisoned him at Minden. The Popish inhabitants of the Rhenish provinces were of course incensed against the King, and sympathized warmly with the deposed prelate. The Archbishop of Posen, who followed the example of his brother of Cologne, was next imprisoned, much to the indignation of the people of his diocese.

The King had good reason, in the troubles which clouded the last years of his reign, to regret the treaty with the Pope in 1821, which had called these ecclesiastics into existence. His health had been failing some time, and in June, 1840, his condition was pronounced desperate. His subjects, with whom he was popular notwithstanding his want of Liberal principles, surrounded the palace, lamenting his state. About half-past twelve on the 7th of June a travelling carriage drove rapidly through the crowd, and the Emperor of Russia descended from it at the palace door. He had come to bid a last adieu to his old friend. Frederick William could not speak, but recognized the Czar, as, kneeling by the bedside, he kissed his hand. A few moments later the King breathed his last, and the Emperor was the first to salute the Crown Prince as King of Prussia.

Frederick William III. was seventy years of age at the time of his death. He had reigned forty-three years, and died sincerely regretted by the majority of his subjects, to whom his amiable and benevolent disposition had greatly endeared him. Anecdotes are told of this prince which remind us of some related of his contem-

porary, George III. of England. For instance, Frederick William was one day walking with one of the Princesses in the Park at Berlin, when a boy selling purses asked him to buy one. He declined, and walked on; but the persevering boy followed and repeated his request. The King again refused more sharply than before, but as he was turning away heard the boy mutter, while an expression of disappointment overspread his countenance, "No dinner for us again!" Frederick William stopped, called the youthful salesman, took six of the purses, and laid down a double Louis-d'or in exchange. "Oh, Sir!" said the child, "would you, Mr. Lieutenant, be so very kind as to pay in groschens¹, for I have no change?" "Who are you?" asked his Majesty. The boy replied that he was the son of the widow of a colour-sergeant who had six children, and that ever since his father's death they had been very poor. The widow did her best to support the family by knitting purses, which *he*, her eldest son, sold. "But it is very hard to live, Mr. Lieutenant," concluded the lad, "the purses bring in so little." "Well, then," said Frederick

¹ A groschen is worth rather less than three-halfpence.

William, "run home to your mother, and tell her I make her a present of the piece of gold." The boy, warmly thanking his benefactor, ran away, without an idea of his rank. He was followed in an hour or two by a royal aide-de-camp, who ascertained that the story was true, and the widow a deserving woman. The King then settled a pension on the mother, and provided for the education of the children.

The following anecdote shows this monarch's character in a still more amiable light. His eldest daughter, who married Nicholas, afterwards Emperor of Russia, knowing his partiality for flowers, had sent him a very rare Asiatic plant, the first specimen of the kind which had been seen in Germany. The King was much pleased with it, asked Humboldt's advice as to its treatment, and placed it in the royal conservatory, where it was nurtured with the greatest possible care. After a time, to the King's great satisfaction, it blossomed. The King's gardens and conservatories were thrown open to the public two or three times a week, to the great annoyance of the head gardener, who was always trying to persuade his Majesty to close them. On one of these occasions the

cherished flower was plucked. The anger of its guardian, the head gardener, was excessive. He discovered the offender, who expressed great regret, and declared he had no idea the flower was of any special value. However, the gardener took his name and address, and leaving him dreadfully frightened, went to report to the King what had taken place. Frederick William at first looked very angry, but merely said, "How could any one be so unfeeling as wilfully to destroy my innocent pleasures?" "Such things will happen, your Majesty," replied the servant, "as long as the gardens are open to the public." The King replied that he would not visit on the public the offence of one man. "Well, then, your Majesty," said the gardener with a disappointed air, "at least, I implore you, punish the thief severely. His name is ——" "Stay, stay," interrupted the King: "I will not hear it. My memory is very tenacious. If once I hear the name, I shall not forget it; and if the young man should hereafter apply to me for some favour, I may, however unconsciously, be influenced against him by this circumstance;" and so the affair ended.

At the close of Frederick William's long and eventful reign, he had the satisfaction of leaving Prussia, in spite of all the misfortunes it had undergone, more extensive and more powerful than it had ever been, even in its palmiest days.

CHAPTER XII.

Frederick William IV.

1840—1861.


A Constitution granted—Riots in Berlin—Universal Suffrage introduced—War with Denmark—National Assembly dissolved—A new and liberal Constitution proclaimed—Frederick William offered the Title of Emperor of Germany—Dispute with Austria—Conservative Reaction—Neufchâtel declared Independent—Malady of the King—Regency of the Crown Prince—Death of the King.

FREDERICK WILLIAM IV. was forty-five when he came to the throne. He was accomplished, refined in his tastes, well-intentioned, and amiable, but greatly deficient in firmness and determination. He commenced his reign by lowering the heavy duty on salt, and granting toleration to those Lutherans who refused to

accept his father's Liturgy, and had consequently been subjected to harsh treatment. He also released the Popish Archbishops, restored them to their sees, and thus reconciled himself to the Pope. Literature and commerce were encouraged; and as the King seemed liberally disposed, his subjects hoped the Parliament would soon be assembled at Berlin, especially as the Government had negotiated a loan for the construction of railroads, which could not be legally done without the sanction of Parliament. Addresses demanding the Parliament were sent in from all parts of the kingdom, Westphalia, as usual, being prominent in the agitation. But the King, rather alarmed at the rapid progress of democratic principles, refused to accede in this particular to the wishes of his people, though he assembled the ancient States General of the Kingdom in 1842.

For five years an uncomfortable state of things continued, the people growing more and more impatient of restraint, and desirous of political power, and the King disturbed and uneasy at their vehemence, and unwilling either to trust them with the privileges they sought, or to silence them with violence.

In 1847, the long-promised Constitution was announced. The Imperial Diet or Parliament was convoked in April, but it was to meet only once in four years, and was considerably restricted in its powers, while the qualifications for voting for its members were such as to exclude the greater part of the people from the franchise. The next year the Revolution of 1848, which drove Louis Philippe from his throne, occurred, and produced a great effect in Germany. Frederick William made some hasty concessions, in hope of averting the storm which he saw impending. On the 6th of March he declared that the Parliament should meet annually, and proclaimed the freedom of the press; but it was too late, the people were far too excited to be calmed by such promises. They indeed cheered the King when he appeared on a balcony and harangued them, but immediately afterwards insulted the troops, who fired and charged. Barricades were then erected in Berlin, and riots ensued. The King changed his ministers, and after about a week's tumult and bloodshed, tranquillity was restored. The King paraded the streets at the head of the mob, wearing the revolutionary colours, and declared he would




take the lead in the free German movement.

The Parliament met on the 2nd of April. It sat eight days, and passed a law in favour of universal suffrage. An insurrection took place in Posen about this time, which was suppressed. The German Diet at Frankfort declared war against Denmark, in order to prevent the incorporation of Schleswig with the Danish monarchy, and Frederick William took part in the contest. In May, 1848, the new National Assembly met. The ministry refusing to carry out some of its resolutions, the riots were resumed. The King appeased them by changing his Ministers. Peace was made with Denmark in August. In October the assembly voted the abolition of the Nobility, but this was rather too daring an innovation, and the King determined to resist. He chose a new Conservative Minister, Count Brandenburg, prorogued the National Assembly to the 27th of November, and ordered it to remove its sittings from Berlin to Brandenburg. The assembly protested the King had no power to issue such orders; but His Majesty sent for the troops, and closed the theatre where it was

accustomed to sit. On the 15th of December it was dissolved, and an edict published at the same time, granting to the people a new and liberal Constitution. Two Chambers or Houses of Representatives were to be established; the members of the Lower House were to be elected by universal suffrage; a property qualification was required in the electors of the Upper House. In February, 1849, the new Parliament met.

In March, 1849, the Frankfort Diet offered the title of Hereditary Emperor of Germany to Frederick William, but he declined it unless the Emperor of Austria and *all* the other German princes consented to his acceptance of it. They refused their assent, and the proposition fell through. In 1850 events occurred in Hesse-Cassel which nearly led to a war between Austria and Prussia. The Elector quarrelled with his subjects, and appealed to the Frankfort Diet for support. Austria responded to his call, while Prussia espoused the cause of the people. The Austrian and Prussian armies were both called out, and marched into the Hessian territories. One skirmish took place near Fulda, after which Frederick William considered it advisable to negotiate, as Prussia was



really quite unprepared for war. A treaty was accordingly signed at Olmutz, on the 29th of November, and Hesse-Cassel abandoned to the Elector and his Austrian allies.


In the same year universal suffrage was abolished; and from this time, under the guidance of the Minister Manteuffel, a re-action took place in Prussia. In 1854 it was decided that the Upper House should consist of hereditary members,—that is to say, the nobility,—and of life members named by the King, the Universities, and certain towns to which the King might grant the privilege.

Manteuffel's foreign policy was one of reserve and neutrality. In 1852, Prussia agreed to the Treaty of London, which provided for the succession of Prince Christian to the Danish Crown. During the Crimean War, which lasted from 1854 to 1856, Frederick William sympathized with the Czar Nicholas, who had married his sister Charlotte, and was his personal friend; but from reasons of policy remained neutral. In 1856, Prussia sent Manteuffel and Count Hasfeld as plenipotentiaries to the Congress at Paris, which decided the terms of peace with Russia. In May, 1857, after a Conference

on the subject of Neuchâtel, which since 1848 considered itself independent, and wished to belong wholly to Switzerland, Frederick William formally renounced his rights to that principality, which is now a Swiss Canton.

The relations of Austria and Prussia had been far from friendly for some time, and there seemed danger of an open rupture, when, in July, 1857, the King was attacked by a malady which unhappily terminated in insanity. His brother William became Regent in October, 1858. He retained Manteuffel in office till the 6th of November, when a new ministry, more liberal than Manteuffel and his followers, came into place, with Prince Hohenzollern for Premier. In June, 1859, occurred the war between Napoleon III. and Victor Emmanuel on one side, and the Emperor of Austria on the other. Prussia remained neutral; her sympathies were divided. The Conservative party dreaded the ambition and aggrandisement of France, the Liberals wished success to the Italian Liberals, and all disliked Austria.

In 1860 changes were introduced into the army, which was greatly enlarged in spite of the opposition of the Parliament. According



to the new regulations, every Prussian (except Clergymen and a very few other favoured persons) was bound to serve in the army from the age of twenty to twenty-three, in the *reserve* from twenty-three to twenty-eight, and in the *landwehr*—a sort of militia liable to be called out in war—from twenty-eight to thirty-nine.

In the autumn the Regent had an interview at Coblenz with Queen Victoria of England, at Baden with the Emperor of the French and about a dozen German princes, at Töplitz with the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, and at Varsovia with the Czar. On the 2nd of January, 1861, Frederick William IV. expired, and his brother, the Regent, succeeded him.

CHAPTER XIII.

William I.

1861—1867.

*Coronation at Königsberg—Count Bismark—
Government disputes with the Lower House—
War with Denmark—Peace with Denmark
—Treaty of Gastein—War with Austria—
Occupation of Hanover—Invasion of Austria—
—Battle of Königgratz—Treaty of Prague.*

WILLIAM I. made no change in his policy or ministers on becoming king. He was crowned with great pomp at Königsberg in October. In his Coronation Address he told the people that he received the Crown directly from God, and it was consequently inviolable, but added that his subjects would give him counsel, and he should follow it. He soon showed that he meant to act up to the former part of his discourse; as to

the latter he was not so scrupulous. The Parliament advised him to curtail the budget and reduce the army; instead of complying with this wish, he went on increasing both.

The Lower House opposed the King and was dissolved in March, 1862. Changes took place in the Ministry and, in September, Count Bismark came into office. He carried matters with a high hand, was supported by the Upper House, and imposed the budget on the nation in spite of the Lower House, which he dissolved in October. The Parliament of 1863 was as hostile to the Government as its predecessor, and after a little vehement opposition was also dissolved. Bismark then issued, on the 1st of June, a royal ordinance curtailing the liberty of the Press. The new Parliament met in August; it was composed of similar elements to the last. Its first action was to declare the ordinance of the 1st of June illegal. It, however, recommended the King to take up the Schleswig-Holstein question; and as this advice happened to coincide with His Majesty's own views, it was followed.

It will be remembered that in 1852 Frederick William IV. was a party to the treaty of

London, which secured the succession of Prince Christian of Glucksburg to *all* the dominions of Frederick VII., King of Denmark. Austria, as well as the rest of the European nations, had signed this treaty. In November, 1863, Frederick VII. died, and Prince Christian took possession of the throne as Christian IX. The Diet of Frankfort, in the name of the German Confederation, immediately demanded that a separate Constitution should be given to Schleswig and Holstein; so that their only connexion with the Kingdom of Denmark should consist in their being ruled by the same sovereign; just as Hanover formed no part of England, though governed for a long time by English Kings.

If Christian IX. refused to accede to this demand, he was threatened with an occupation of the Duchies by Austria and Prussia, in the name of the Diet. He did refuse; and Austria and Prussia at once invaded the Duchies, though less as emissaries of the Diet than as independent powers making private conquests. The Duke of Augustenburg laid claim to the provinces, and his pretensions were supported by the Diet. The Danes defended themselves gal-

lantly ; but what could one weak little nation do against two such powerful enemies as Austria and Prussia? Marshal Wrangel, a veteran of nearly eighty years of age, took command of the Prussian forces. Holstein was occupied in January, 1864. On the 1st of February the river Eider was crossed, and Schleswig overrun. Jutland was next attacked, and Kolding taken.

The Danes were defeated at Düppel on the 8th of April, and again at Alsen on the 29th of June. Jutland, as well as Schleswig-Holstein, was now at the mercy of the Prussians. On the 18th of July an armistice was agreed on, in August preliminaries of peace were signed, and on the 30th of October, 1864, a definitive treaty was concluded, by which Christian IX. ceded his rights to Schleswig-Holstein and Lauenburg to Austria and Prussia. A difficulty now arose as to the fate of the Duchies. Austria and the Diet wished to hand them over to the Duke of Augustenburg, whereas Bismark desired to annex them to Prussia. Finally, after much dispute, Francis Joseph of Austria and William of Prussia met at Gastein, near Salzburg, in August, 1865, and negotiated a treaty which

assigned Schleswig to Prussia, and Holstein to Austria for the present, set aside the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg, and arranged that Kiel should become a Federal harbour under Prussian rule. It was also decided that Prussia should purchase Lauenburg of Austria for a specified sum of money, and that Schleswig-Holstein should join the Zollverein.

This Convention gave great dissatisfaction to the Diet; and the Lower House of the Prussian Parliament refused to pay the expenses of the war, or pass Bismark's budget. The King paid for Lauenburg out of his private resources, and Bismark calmly pursued his policy, regardless of the detestation he incurred. A story is told which shows what feelings the lower classes entertained towards him. It is said that the Crown Prince was one day watching the departure of a large body of emigrants, when a poor man came up to him and said, "If your Highness will give me a crown, I will tell you how to stop the emigration." "Speak," replied the Prince, giving him a piece of gold. "Let the King send Bismark to America," said the man, "and I will answer for it not a Prussian will follow him."

The dissensions between Austria and Prussia were soon renewed. Austria permitted agitation on behalf of the Duke of Augustenburg in Holstein; and Prussia, while sternly repressing all such manifestation of feeling in Schleswig, remonstrated indignantly at the conduct of Austria, when the Emperor replied that he would not be dictated to. Bismark evidently wished to find a pretext for war. In December, 1865, the Zollverein recognized the Kingdom of Italy, and concluded a commercial treaty with Victor Emmanuel. In January, 1866, Austria and Prussia exchanged hostile despatches, and prepared for war.

In June, 1866, the Austrian governor of Holstein summoned the Estates of Holstein to meet at Itzehoe, with a view of ascertaining their wishes as to their future government. General Manteuffel, the Prussian governor of Schleswig, thereupon invaded Holstein and took possession of it. Bismark then appointed Herr von Schul Pleuen supreme president of the united provinces. In the same month Bismark proposed to the German Confederacy reforms in the Diet which would exclude Austria altogether from it. On the 14th of June the

Diet passed a resolution, moved by Austria, in favour of federal execution against Prussia.

Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, Wurtemberg, Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Homburg, Lippe-Waldeck, Reusze, Lichenstein Nassau, Saxe-Meiningen, and Frankfort sided with Austria.

Baden, Luxemburg, Limburg, Brunswick, Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Schwerin, Saxe-Weimar, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg, Oldenburg, Anhalt-Schwartzburg, Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck voted for Prussia.

On the 15th of June Prussia declared war against Hanover, Saxony, and Hesse-Cassel; on the 17th, Austria declared war against Prussia; on the 18th, Prussia declared war against Austria; and on the 20th, Italy did the same.

The Prussian forces were divided into three parts: the first under Prince Frederick Charles, the second under the Crown Prince, and the third under General Herwarth von Bittenfeld. Besides these divisions, there was the *Reserve* at Berlin under General Mülhe. On the 17th of June the Prussians occupied Hanover. The King and his army, having evacuated the

country, were seeking to effect a junction with the army of Bavaria. Hesse-Cassel was invaded on the 16th, the Elector taken prisoner on the 22nd, and sent to Stettin for safe custody, and the electorate completely conquered. Saxony was occupied and Dresden captured on the 18th, the King and his army having marched to join the Austrian forces in Bohemia.

On the 23rd of June Prince Frederick Charles and General von Bittenfeld crossed the Austrian frontier, and entered Bohemia with their armies. On the 26th a skirmish took place at Liebenau, in which the Austrians were worsted. In the night of the same day a more severe action occurred at Podoll, in which the Austrians were again forced to retreat. The immense advantage the Prussians derived from the possession of the *needle gun* (a new kind of breech-loader) was already apparent; the proportion of Austrians to Prussians wounded was as five to one. On the 30th, Prince Frederick Charles took Gitschin, having vanquished the Austrians five times on his way.

The Crown Prince had been advancing by a different route, and, in spite of considerable

opposition, reached Arnau on the Elbe on the 30th, having been victorious in three severe contests by the way. Communications were at once opened between the two Prussian armies. The King arrived at Gitschin from Berlin on the 1st of July, and assumed the supreme command. On the 3rd of July, Benedek, the Austrian Commander-in-Chief, was completely defeated at Sadowa, near Königgratz. Prince Frederick Charles began the battle, and the Crown Prince came to his aid while the struggle was at its height. The needle gun did terrible execution, and the Austrians were driven across the Elbe. The Prussians took 174 guns, 11 standards, and 20,000 prisoners. They lost, in killed and wounded, rather less than 10,000; the Austrians lost 40,000, including prisoners. This battle led to the surrender of Venetia to France by Francis Joseph.

While these important events had been taking place in Bohemia, the Hanoverian army had defeated the Prussians at Langensalza on the 27th of June, but was surrounded and forced to capitulate on the 29th. The Bavarian and Federal armies were in little better condition; they strove in vain to arrest the progress of the

intentions were (1) the annexation of Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, and part of Darmstadt, and also of Brunswick at the death of the reigning Duke, who was childless; and (2) the formation of a North German Confederation, headed by Prussia, which Saxony was to be forced to join.

On the 27th preliminaries of peace with Bavaria were signed, Bismark and Von Moltke insisting on the cession to Prussia of that part of Bavaria north of the Maine, which condition was reluctantly agreed to. On the same day the King bestowed the Order of the Black Eagle on General Von Moltke.

The army commenced its evacuation of Austria on the 29th. On the 31st the King held a review on the March-field, a plain within fifteen miles of Vienna; after which they marched to the frontiers. The final treaty of peace was signed at Prague on the 23rd of August. Its provisions were similar to those of the preliminary treaty.

The Parliament was opened at Berlin on the 5th of August. This time Bismark's proposals were received with favour, and the Lower House consented to pay all the expenses of the war,

and legalize whatever taxes he chose to impose. The brilliant success of his policy had obliterated all recollection of his arbitrary conduct and despotic leanings; he who had six months before been perhaps the most unpopular man in Prussia, was now greeted every where with enthusiasm.

On the 20th and 21st of September the army entered Berlin in triumph. The city was magnificently decorated, and the people assembled in crowds to cheer the soldiers, who all marched past the King. Peace had been concluded in the end of August and beginning of September with Wurtemberg and Hesse-Darmstadt, and Baden, which, notwithstanding its vote in favour of Prussia, had joined the Austrian side in the war. So closed the campaign of 1866, which will ever be famous in the annals of Germany. It transferred the chief power in the Empire from Austria to Prussia; it raised the area of the latter country from 127,350 square miles to 160,000, and the population from 19,000,000 to 23,000,000.

The new North German Confederation was formed in August. It consisted of Prussia, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Saxe-Wei-

mar, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Anhalt, Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen, Schwarzburg-Rodolstadt, Waldeck, Reuscz, Schaumburg-Lippe, Lippe, Lubeck, Bremen, and Hamburg. Saxe-Meiningen joined the Confederation in September, and Saxony in October. Of course all the members of the league are in a great measure subject to Prussia.

France does not appear well pleased at the aggrandizement of Prussia, and is supposed to entertain strong desires to appropriate the Rhenish provinces. At present peace is maintained on the Continent, in spite of continual rumours of war between the Emperor Napoleon III. and King William I.

Time only can decide whether Prussia will be able to retain and consolidate the empire she has so suddenly won.

The heir to the throne is Prince Frederick William, eldest son of the King. He married the Princess Royal of England in 1858, and they have several children.

INDEX.

A.

	PAGE
AIX-LA-CHAPELLE, Congress of	142
Albert of Brandenburg, first Duke of Prussia	3
Albert Frederick, second Duke	<i>ib.</i>
Alexander of Russia visits Potsdam	105
Amiens, Peace of	104
Augustenburg, Duke of	163, 165

B.

Battle of Auerstadt	112
Bautzen	125
Brienne	131
Cholusitz	39
Culm	128
Custoza	170
Dettingen	40
Dresden	128
Eylau	115
Friedland	<i>ib.</i>
Golymin	<i>ib.</i>
Gross Zagerndorf	61
Hohenfriedberg	42
Jemappes	97
Jena	112
Kolin	59
Königgratz	169

	PAGE
Battle of Kunnersdorf	66
Langensalza	169
Laon	132
La Rothière	131
Leipsic	129
Leuthen or Lissa	63
Lignitz	67
Ligny	135
Lowusitz	57
Lutzen	125
Malplaquet	12
Marengo	104
Molwitz	38
Prague	58
Pultusk	114
Quatre Bras	136
Rosbach	62
Sorr	42
Tobitschau	170
Torgau	67
Valmy	95
Waterloo	136
Zorndorf	64
Benedek defeated at Sadowa	169
Berlin taken by the Russians and Austrians	67
taken by Napoleon	113
Bernadotte lands in Pomerania	126
Bessières, Death of	124
Bismark, Prime Minister	162
his unpopularity	165
Blucher visits England, made a D.C.L.	134
his letter to his wife	138
his death	143
Browne, Marshal, Defeat and death of	59
Brunswick, Ferdinand, Duke of, wins the battle of Minden	65

	PAGE
Brunswick, Ferdinand, Duke of, restores the Prince of Orange to his dominions	92
invades France	94
takes Mayence	97
defeats Hoche at Kaiserslautern	98
resigns his command	98
wounded and defeated at Auerstadt	112
death	114
Brunswick, Duke of (son of above), killed	136
Bute, Earl of, withdraws the subsidy from Prussia	68

C.

Catherine the Great of Russia succeeds her husband	69
Charles of Bavaria elected Emperor	39
Charles Theodore of Bavaria	81
Confederation of the Rhine formed	109
Cross and Sword, Order of the Knights of the	2

D.

Dankelmann's character and disgrace	7
Dumourier negotiates with Brunswick	96
conquers Belgium	97

E.

Elizabeth of Russia, her death	68
Eugene, Prince, objects to the recognition of Prussia	9
wins Malplaquet	12

F.

Fontainebleau, Abdication of	133
Francis of Lorraine elected Emperor of Germany	43
Frankfort, Diet of	139
taken by Prussians	170

	PAGE
Hospitallers, Knights, conquered Prussia	2
Order dissolved	3

I.

Iron Cross, Order of the, founded	124
---	-----

J.

John Sigismund, Elector of Brandenburg, becomes Duke of Prussia	4
--	---

K.

Kalisch, Interview of the Czar and Frederick Wil- liam III. at	123
Konigsberg taken by Soult	115
Coronations at	10, 161
Kosciusko's defeat and captivity	99

L.

Laudohn, his ugliness	64
Compliment to	79
Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau, Prince	12
Louis, Prince, Death of	111
Louisa of Mecklenburg, her dislike of France	105
intercourse with Napoleon	116
interest in reforms	120
death	<i>ib.</i>

M.

Macdonald defeated by Blucher	127
Maria Theresa's accession	36
her scheme for the annihilation of Prussia	54
Maupertuis	51

Index.

181

	PAGE
Moltke, General von, directs the campaign	171
made a Knight of the Black Eagle	172
Moreau defeated at Pirmasens	98
death	128

N.

Napoleon Bonaparte, his Russian expedition	122
lands at Cannes	134
sent to St. Helena	138
death	138
Needle gun	168
Neufchâtel becomes subject to Prussia	17
separated from Prussia	159
Nicholas, Emperor of Russia	158
North German Confederation founded	173

P.

Paris taken by the Allies	132
Congress of	158
Peter II. of Russia assists Frederick II.	68
murdered	69
Pitt, Earl of Chatham, grants a subsidy to Prussia . . .	63
Pitt, Mr., Death of.	108
Poland, first partition	80
second partition	97
last partition	99
Potato War	82
Princess Royal of England, her marriage	174
Prussia, Origin of the word	1
merged in Brandenburg	4
becomes a kingdom	10

R.

Rheinsberg, Castle of	35
---------------------------------	----

S.

	PAGE
Saxony, King of, made prisoner	130
Schleswig-Holstein, Invasion of	163
Schwarzenburg, Prince	126
Schwerin, Marshal, his career	38
death	59
Seven Years' War commenced	56
Silesia ceded to Prussia	40
Stein, Von, founds the Tugendbund	119
banished	120
Succession, War of the	8

T.

Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle	43
Amiens	104
Baden	16
Bâle	99
Campo Formio	<i>ib.</i>
Closter Severn	60
Diebitch	123
Dresden	43
Gastein	164
Hubertsburg	69
London	158, 163
Luneville	104
Nikolsburg	171
Nimeguen	6
Oliva	<i>ib.</i>
Olmütz	158
Paris	69
Prague	172
Stockholm	17
Tetschen	82
Thorn	3
Tilsit	116
Utrecht	16

Index.

183

U.

	PAGE
University of Halle founded	12

V.

Vienna, Congress of	134
Voltaire as Ambassador	41
visit to Frederick II.	49

W.

Wellington invades France	131
wins Waterloo	136
Wilhelmina, Princess, sides with Frederick II. against	
his father	30
death	65
Wilhelmina, Princess of Orange, arrested	92
William I., Regent during his brother's illness	159
accession	161
disagreements with his Parliament	162
makes war on Denmark	163
and on Austria	167

Z.

Zimmermann attends Frederick II.	83
Zollverein established	146

LONDON:
GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

•

